

Produces Pressure



British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind (R) Listens to the Syrian FM Farooq Shara in London, Nov. 26
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Rafsanjani Encourages ECO's Restructure Push

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani yesterday issued a message of encouragement to the leaders of Economic Cooperation Organization member nations, emphasizing the need to strengthen the regional grouping.

The message was given here on the eve of ECO Day, November 28. Rafsanjani said the commitment of ECO members to realizing the potential of the organization in economic, social, trade and cultural cooperation had been evident in meetings such as the Fourth Summit of ECO in Ashkhabad.

But he said it was necessary, now more than ever, to implement all decisions made at the Third and Fourth Summits, and to expedite the ratification process.

Activity and follow-up measures within the organization this year had resulted in important recommendations to strengthen and restructure ECO and to reappraise the Izmir Treaty, Rafsanjani said. The emphasis on trade was the



most important priority for regional cooperation within ECO. The restructuring plan will be implemented from January 1997.

The President said he hoped ECO members, with their history of political, economic and social ties, would utilize their potential and "achieve the goals and aspirations of their people, enshrined in the Treaty of Izmir."

The President said the emer-

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President's Reply to Kohl Will Be Sent Tomorrow

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has written a reply to Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Nov. 22 letter, a highly informed source said yesterday.

On condition of anonymity the source, talking to IRAN NEWS said, "Mr. Rafsanjani has written a letter to Mr. Kohl in response to chancellor's earlier letter."

He did not disclose the content of the letter, but said, "The move from both sides is healthy and will result in good relations between Tehran and Bonn."

Kohl in his letter to Rafsanjani expressed his concern over the deterioration in relations between the two countries.

In a two-page letter Kohl told Rafsanjani that German courts were independent and the government had absolutely no control

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IRANIAN DELEGATION VISITS TAJ MAHAL

Sharma Pays Glowing Tribute to Ali (A.S.), Deve Gowda Wants Expanded Indo-Iranian Ties

BY M. FIROOZI

NEW DELHI, INDIA - Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri Tuesday evening went to Rashtrapati Bhawan, India's presidential palace, and met with President Shankar Dayal Sharma who paid glowing tribute to one of the greatest Islamic personalities, Hazrat Ali (A.S.).

Sharma is well versed in Islamic affairs as he used to teach Islamic Sharia at Lucknow University, in Uttar Pradesh state, before entering politics in the early 1950s.

In a warm welcome to Nateq-Nouri, Sharma spoke highly of the First Imam of the Household of the Holy Prophet (S), Hazrat Ali (A.S.), and said, "I'm deeply influenced by the vigorous personality of the cousin and son-in-law of Prophet Mohammed (S)."

The Indian president comes from the former Muslim princely state of Bhopal, and besides Sanskrit and Hindi languages, studied



NEW DELHI, INDIA - Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma (R) receives on Tuesday the Iranian Majlis Speaker Nateq-Nouri.

Persian and Arabic systematically. Sharma told Nateq-Nouri, "Persian language commands great respect in India, and all efforts are

made to encourage the university professors of this great language." "For almost seven centuries, be-

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Political Stability a Major Factor for ECO Success, Ozar



Photo by Aida

BY MOJGAN TAVASSOLI

TEHRAN - A career diplomat underscored the importance of regional organizations and said political stability in this region was one of the major factors for their success.

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Secretary-General Ozer Ozar said in an interview with IRAN NEWS, "Political will and adequate financial facilities are the other factors to make the regional organization a success."

Without going into detail, Ozar responded to a question as to whether he was optimistic about the future of ECO: "I'm realistic, but not pessimistic."

Ozar was talking to IRAN NEWS on the occasion of ECO Day, which is observed on today by member states. November 28, 1992 was the day the Izmir Treaty was amended at the Islamabad Summit. The Izmir Treaty was originally signed on March 12, 1977 when it used to be called the

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Vaezi Flies to Dublin Today for 'Critical Dialogue'

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - A senior official from the Foreign Ministry today will fly to Dublin, Ireland, for the seventh round of talks with the European Union officials.

Ireland is currently president of the troika of the EU along with the previous and future heads, Italy and Luxembourg, respectively.

The Irano-EU talks, dubbed

"critical dialogue" started few years ago in an effort to understand the stances of each other.

The critical dialogue, championed by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, also countered the U.S. unsuccessful move to isolate Iran.

Vaezi will stay in Dublin for two days and cover all related issues of Iran and the EU in talks with the officials of the three countries of the troika.

Allies Press U.S. to Revise Iran Policy

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN (IRNA) - The U.S. so-called "dual containment" of Iran and Iraq came under attack from French, German, Japanese, Russian and British experts at a London Conference on Competing Foreign Interests in the Persian Gulf this week.

Criticism was also voiced by former American undersecretary of state, Richard Murphy, whose New York-based Council on Foreign Relations has already started to review U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf.

Opening the two-day conference on Monday, he argued that Iran cannot be overlooked and that "critical dialogue offered a

more promising path."

Former European Commission director for the Middle East, Eberhard Rhein, called for a more cohesive policy between the U.S. and the European Union (EU), whose relations, he said, were not fully harmonious on the Persian Gulf.

The EU basic stance, he said, differed from Washington's. The policy should be aimed at preventing any countries in the region or outside from dominating the pivotal importance of Persian Gulf energy sources, he said.

Japan's ambassador to Egypt, Kunio Katakura, disputed U.S. claims that Iran has been suppos-

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SARAJEVO, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: A woman from Srebrenica grimaces in pain as she demonstrates with about 4,000 other Bosnians in the center of Sarajevo against the slow implementation of the Dayton Peace Accord Nov. 26. The demonstrators blocked the city holding up banners reading "May Boutros-Ghali Burn" and "Punishment for the Criminals".

(AFP Photo)

Former Journalists as Possible Presidents

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Two former journalists whose publications were banned by the government were mentioned as possible candidates for the seventh presidency here yesterday.

One is Hojjatolislam Seyyed Hadi Khamenei, who yesterday disclosed that he was approached by unnamed people to field his name in the next election.

added, "I have not made any decisions, as I'll wait and see what the situation is."

"If it's in the interests (of the Revolution), or if it's a (religious) duty, then I'll run for president despite the difficulties," the former journalist vowed.

Khamenei was managing di-

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NEWS ANALYSIS

In a question-and-answer session at the Tehran University, Hadi Khamenei said, "I, myself, am not a candidate for the presidency. And still I did not give a negative or affirmative response to the approach made to me."

Hadi Khamenei did not say who had approached him, but

Kinkel Supports Iran Ties

BONN, GERMANY (Ruter) - German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said yesterday Bonn would press on with its dialogue with Iran on terrorism, human rights and aggressive fundamentalism, ignoring protesters' calls in both countries to cut all ties.

In a speech to Parliament, Kinkel said Germany's relations with Iran had "entered troubled waters" over a trial in Berlin in which the prosecutor accused Tehran of ordering the murders of three Iranian dissidents and their translator in 1992.

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IRAN NEWS

Managing Director: MOHAMMAD SOLTANIFAR
Editor-in-Chief: FORTEZA FIROOZI
Editorial Dept. Tel: (0098-21) 111-1111
Telex: 110000 IRANIR
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Public Relations Tel/Fax: 111-1111
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EDITORIAL

Political Stability Required for ECO Dynamism

Today is observed the ECO Day. It was the day when three-member Economic Cooperation Organization was expanded and six former republics of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan were included.

In their various summits and ministerial meetings, the ECO members have reached agreement on various issues including the setup of the ECO Trade and development bank, reinsurance company, shipping lines, airlines, trade transit, cultural institute, academic foundation, etc.

Through their meetings, the ECO member states have succeeded in implementing the grand Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajik railway project to enable members such as the former Soviet republics to be conveniently linked to other countries.

The question which is at point is 'to what extent will these agreements be practically enforced?' Such a question arises in view of the ECO members' dire need for development through speedy implementation of the agreements.

Embracing a 300 million population, the ECO has massive reserves and is a potential power in the fields of economy, oil, gas, mines, electricity, agriculture. The ECO members, moreover, have a large consumption market.

This grand asset will thus play a befitting role in national and regional growth and prosperity of the member states.

Some analysts hold that the ECO has not been able to reach all its objectives and that its members do not have fit collaboration and coordination. They say that, consequently, certain countries do not appropriately work with the ECO.

They, moreover, say that the ECO member states have not had significant activity in private trade (i.e. private sector investment) which is a major parameter for cooperation.

Even though some ECO members face problems such as high inflation rates, unemployment, domestic political skirmishes (as witnessed in Afghanistan and Azerbaijan), these would not be an acceptable justification for not enhancing cooperation.

ECO member states should note that if they soundly cooperate, they would in the future make the ECO second to the ASEAN in Asia in terms of investment.

In order to reach economic development, the ECO member states should strengthen their cooperation to get rid of economic domination of the global economic powers.

Consolidation of the ECO will considerably contribute to preservation of regional peace and stability and reduction of foreign organizations and governments' presence in the region.

On the third anniversary of accession of new members to the ECO, it is hoped that more steps would be taken to develop this organization, since the post-Cold War world is moving toward regional convergence and the setup of regional organizations such as the SAARC, NAFTA, etc. is indicative of this trend.

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Velayati Receives ECO Secretary-General

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - In a meeting with Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, the Secretary-General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Onder Ozar, praised Iran's support for ECO.

Thanking the foreign minister for the facilities provided and for hosting the ECO secretariat in Iran, Ozar said: "Your opinions and perspectives are quite important for ECO and the organization always supports the constructive suggestions of the Islamic Republic."

Velayati voiced satisfaction with reactivating of ECO under the present structure and emphasized the significance of regional cooperation on the basis of the revised treaty signed in Izmir, Turkey.

Stressing the need for ECO to centralize on new projects, products and basic commodities in the region such as energy, transportation and cotton, the foreign minister said the Tehran-Mashhad-Sarakhs railway linked to the nationwide network was an important step in regional communication for ECO member states and other nations and urged ECO member countries to launch similar projects.



TEHRAN - Ozar (L) with Foreign Minister Velayati

(Photo by Hatami)

He said ECO shipping company and ECO airways were important achievements in regional cooperation and it was necessary for member nations to energize their activities on such ventures.

"Broadening of ECO shipping operation will benefit all member states particularly the littoral states which can have access to far-flung regions around the world through the Islamic Republic," the

minister added.

Affirming Dr. Velayati's viewpoints with regard to expansion of ECO activities, the secretary-general of ECO said his secretariat will do its best to activate ECO shipping and airways.

He termed his recent visit to Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan as fruitful and briefed Velayati on ECO's future plans, adding that ECO would actively

participate in the next OIC ministerial conference in Jakarta.

ECO members have named November 28 as 'ECO Day' which coincides with joining of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan to the regional body marking it as a symbol of solidarity and political will of the member states in fulfillment of their goals.

Tehran-Moscow Cooperation Aimed to Promote Regional Stability

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's permanent representative to the U.N., Kamal Kharrazi said in United Nations Center in New York Tuesday that Tehran-Moscow cooperation is aimed to establish stability in the region and create a better and safer atmosphere for economic development.

Kharrazi made the statement in a gathering at the Center for Studies on East and West here while elaborating on Tehran-Moscow political, economic and social relations.

Stressing the importance of regional and international cooperation between the two countries, he said Caucasus, Caspian Sea and

Central Asia provide grounds for further cooperation on the basis of common interests and cooperation.

Reminding that countries in these regions will not prosper unless they respect interests of all countries, Kharrazi pointed out that Iran and Russia in their bilateral relations keep in mind interests of all of their neighbors.

He expressed satisfaction over Moscow's cooperation with Tehran in providing Iran with weapons for defense purposes.

In economic field, Russia is a good supplier of commodities needed by Iran on the one hand and on the other a good market for Iranian products, the Iranian representative said.

The two countries have concluded numerous agreements covering almost all fields ranging from oil to fisheries, IRNA reported from New York.

Kharrazi referred to Russia's decision to complete the Bushehr Nuclear Power Station and the recent agreement signed between Iran, Russia and Turkmenistan to set up a joint company to exploit the seabed resources of the Caspian Sea as examples of bilateral cooperation.

eral cooperation.

He further touched on efforts made by Iran and Russia to resolve the regional crises including the Armenia-Azerbaijan dispute, the civil war in Tajikistan and the Afghan crisis as common challenges for Tehran and Moscow.

Kharrazi stressed that Tehran-Moscow cooperation is aimed to minimize the adverse effects of these confrontations on their security.

Kashmiri Leader Seeks Iran's Help to Solve Crisis

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Vice Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Javed Mir, believes that Iran can play an effective role in resolving the Kashmir crisis because it is a sympathizer of the Kashmiri cause and a friend of India as well.

Speaking to IRNA in Srinagar yesterday, Javed Mir said the people of Kashmir were suffering from the U.S. vested interests in Kashmir and that Iran could offer an objective and sincere solution

to the Kashmir issue.

He urged the visiting Speaker of the Iranian Parliament Hojjatolislam Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri to take up the Kashmir issue with the Indian leaders during his stay in India.

He added, "Iran is more sympathetic to the Kashmir cause than any other country."

He wished a meeting between Nateq-Nouri and the leaders of the Kashmiri movement would be held as it could provide the latter with an opportunity to solicit Iran's support to their struggle.

Khansari Discusses Islamic World Issues with Moroccan Envoy

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Ministry Director General for Middle East-North African Affairs, Hojjatolislam Seyed Mohammad Kazem Khansari, in a meeting in Rabat Tuesday exchanged views with former Moroccan Prime Minister Ezzeddine Laraki.

Laraki is to succeed Hamid al-Ghabid as the secretary-general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

In their meeting, the two sides reviewed major problems of the

world of Islam and the sensitive role which OIC could play in this regard.

According to an IRNA report, Laraki, referring to the ancient history and the rich Islamic culture of Iran, said the Islamic Republic through its cooperation with other Muslim states, could play a significant role in promoting the ideals of the Islamic world.

Khansari announced Iran's readiness for supporting the efforts of the OIC's next secretary-general.

30,000 Iraqi Kurdish Refugees Leave for Home

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - During the past few days nearly 30,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees have left the camps near Sardasht, a border region in north-western Iran, to return home.

Director of the local Red Crescent relief organization, Seyed Qasem Hassan-Nejad, said that the refugees, were provided relief aid including supplies of food, clothing and shelter by the Iranian authorities during their roughly three-month stay in the country.

With the refugees gone, the border camps in Sardasht region are now almost empty, IRNA reported, quoting Hassan-Nejad.

ported, quoting Hassan-Nejad.

An Iraqi Kurdish refugee, on his way back home, criticized the indifference shown by the international community during the fighting in Northern Iraq, saying that Iran was the sole country which came to the help of the refugees.

Meanwhile 1,500 Iraqi Kurdish refugees have left the "Qamureh" refugee camp in Piranshahr in West Azarbaijan Province.

Some 1,600 Iraqi Kurds fleeing the fighting in Northern Iraq had been provided accommodation in the said camp.

Iranian Delegation in Kashmir

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan Mohammad Mahdi Akhundzadeh led an Iranian technical and economic delegation to Pakistani-controlled Kashmir on Tuesday aimed at reviewing economic and construction projects to be implemented in the region.

Akhundzadeh, in his talks with the Prime Minister of Pakistani-

controlled Kashmir, Sultan Mahmud Chowdhari, briefed him on Iran's views on the issue of Kashmir and Tehran's endeavors to help the regional people resolve their problems.

According to IRNA, the head of the Iranian delegation, Mohammad Saeedi-Kia, who is deputy chief of the Mostazafan and Jan-

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IRAN
DOMESTIC NEWS

Tondar Rocket Launchers Display Power at War Games

BY MEHRDAD SERJOOIE

BANDAR ABBAS, HORMUZGAN PROVINCE - Tondar (thunder) rocket launchers have displayed the defensive and offensive capabilities of the Iranian Navy at the ongoing Pirouzi 7 war games here.

Captain Dehghan, commander of a naval brigade of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC), said yesterday the rocket launchers had been designed entirely by Iranian experts and manufactured on an advanced level, such as mobile defense and electronic war-

fare systems.

The weapons were based on modern war strategies and objectives, Dehghan said. High maneuverability, rapid deployment and flexibility in defensive and offensive operations were among the special features of the Tondar rocket launchers, he added.

The 10-day Pirouzi 7 war games started November 20, in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

Also taking part was an Iranian Navy destroyer, damaged by U.S. warplanes in 1988. It was in the

Persian Gulf for military maneuvers after being overhauled, a spokesman for the Iranian Navy said Tuesday.

Rear Admiral Ashkbous Danakar said it took 18 months for Iranian technicians to restore the destroyer. Sabalan, which was seriously damaged on April 17, 1988, by U.S. laser-guided bombs during the Iraqi imposed war.

Reconstruction costs on the \$800 million destroyer amounted to three billion rials, Danakar said, adding that the Iranian Navy was now capable of overhauling various kinds of vessels.

Kharrazi Calls for U.N. Reforms

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations, Kamal Kharrazi, said Tuesday that the Security Council should attempt to gain the confidence and trust of the general membership so as to be able to act on its behalf.

Addressing the 51st session of the U.N. General Assembly on reports of the Security Council, he noted that despite various special functions undertaken by the council, particularly in recent years, the General Assembly has not received any special report from the council. "We believe that this is the task of the General Assembly to prepare and adopt a guideline on that subject," he said adding, special reports of the council can improve relationship between the



KHARRAZI

council and the general membership, according to IRNA.

On the other hand, he noted, the annual reports of the council have been drafted in such a manner which has left no room for their consideration. A report which is indeed a compilation of symbols,

resolutions and chronologies of issues already available to the member states needs no consideration.

"What we are considering now is rather the ways and means through which the reporting method and procedure of the council would be improved, so that the minimum expectations of those members not represented in the council could be met."

Kharrazi further underlined that the General Assembly should truly be able to fulfill its duty in conducting a thorough and comprehensive consideration of the council's report, provided that the content of the report is of a substantive nature.

It seems that the main idea behind the respective articles of the

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Rafsanjani Congratulates Moroccan & Romanian Counterparts

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Ministry Director General for Middle East-North African Affairs, Hojjatolislam Seyed Mohammad Kazem Khansari handed a written message of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to King Hassan of Morocco in a meeting in Rabat on Monday.

Khansari congratulated King Hassan on the anniversary of Morocco's National Day and called for expansion of Tehran-Rabat relations.

During the meeting the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest at the regional and international levels, IRNA reported.

King Hassan reiterated his country's interest in the expansion of brotherly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and asked Khansari to convey his warm regards to Hojjatolislam Rafsanjani.

In another development, President Rafsanjani on Tuesday sent a message of congratulation to new Romanian President Emil Constantinescu.

Rafsanjani in his message expressed hope that the two countries' long-standing bilateral relations would continue to progress.

Iran, U.A.E. Relations Discussed

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) Hussein Sadeqi in his meeting with the Emirates' Ministers of State for Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed al-Nahyan, exchanged views on the two countries' promotion of bilateral relations on Tuesday.

Tehran-Abu Dhabi issues of mutual interest as well as regional current developments were among the subjects reviewed at the meeting, IRNA reported.

LET'S MEMORIZE THE QURAN

SURA 59, THE GATHERING (AL-HASHR)

In the Name of God,

The Beneficent, the Merciful

10. And those who after them arrived, announce:

Our Lord, forgive us and forgive our brethren,

Who in the Faith had over us precedence,

And in our hearts, let there be no aversion

To those who did believe already:

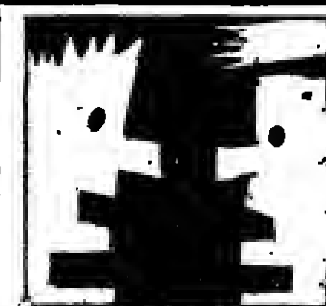
Our Lord, You're Gracious, Full of Mercy.

*The 36th part of the Holy Quran is obtainable in exquisite book-form from: RASA Publication Tel. 883 4844-5 (F.N.)

PRAYER TIMES

Noon (Zohr)	11:53
Evening (Maghreb)	17:13
Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:16
Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:53

TÊTE-A-TÊTE



The Army of Billy and Shalikasavili!

"Sir, have you had time to take a look at the Nov. 25, 1996 edition of the Newsweek magazine?"

"No, why? Is there anything interesting?"

"Oh, there's something terrifying, a report about 'Rape in the Ranks', it says: At least some 4 percent of woman recruits are victims of actual or attempted rape and sodomy, by drill sergeants and other military personnel ... the percentage of raped women in uniform is nearly 10 times higher than the incidence of rape and sexual assault in civilian life ... there is a manhunt for suspected rapists in all the Services ... the army is suddenly at war with itself ...", it's a horrifying report, I tell you!"

"Yes, that's what comes out of administrations who do not believe in any moral values, Judaic, Christian or Islamic, who don't even respect the laws of nature; poor, American women, black or white."

"Oh, it's disgusting; but where, do you think, they're going, master?"

"Not far; only going the way of Sodoni and Gonorrali, that's all!"

ABU SINA

Astara, the Largest Commercial Pole in North of Iran

Following the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, the border port of Astara has turned to one of the largest commercial ports in north of Iran.

As a means of connection between our country, Russia, and the Central Asian republics, this port has the capability for transferring thousands of tons of goods.

The border port of Astara is the most important borderline between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan and with the existing 850 companies for import, export, and international transportation, Astara has a major part in the export of non-oil products and the transit of goods. One-third of the country's transit goods are transferred in Astara.

This year 84,515 tons of goods with the cost of 167,137 million rials have been exported from Astara Customs. These figures show an 80 percent increase in weight and 143 percent increase in cost, comparing to the last year's.

Murtaza Hanzakian the supervisor of Customs in north of Iran said, "The goods exported from Astara Customs include agricultural products, handicrafts, foodstuffs, fabrics, minerals, construction materials, cement, and tiles. Also goods such as wood and paper, chemical products, agricultural products and tools and equipment have been imported."

Also, Abdol Reza Biazar, Astara's governor said, "41,907 of all kinds of trucks have transferred the said volume of goods. Thirty-three thousand of these trucks were the Iranian ones and about 9,000 of them belonged to other countries. For the convenience of the truck drivers, a terminal with the extent of 8 hectares has been built.

A 2 billion-rial budget will be used to establish convenience facilities in this terminal. Among other steps taken for the convenience of exporters and drivers are: giving 24-hour services in Astara Customs, establishing a gas station in Astara Customs, daily passage of trucks from the border. Astara Customs has been made based on the requirement of 50 years ago and now its staff and equipment are not sufficient for the present situation."

The deputy manager of Iranian Customs said, "Astara Customs offers services above its capacity

and it is necessary that the officials take steps to promote it to a department and solve its problems."

The high-ranking officials of country stressed the construction of a new bridge in their visit here. The permissions are issued for the construction of a second bridge on Astara Chay River and a railway bridge as well, and their construction will soon be started. "Mr. Hanzakian the supervision of Customs in north of Iran mentioned, "Once there is a second bridge in Astara bordered, the number of trucks that pass through Astara Customs will reach to 300 trucks a day which is twice more than present."

Also the lack of accordance in the Customs of Astara in Republic of Azerbaijan is a barrier to the transit and export of goods."

Referring to the same problem Astara's governor stated, "Despite our mutual agreement to give 24-hour services, Azerbaijan Customs is now working 10 hours a day."

Building the largest multipurpose port of north of Iran in Astara, connecting the Astara railway to the railway of Azerbaijan, establishing a joint market in the border, are among several national and provincial projects under construction in this region.

Astara's governor said, "Considering the vast investments of the government in Astara and the capabilities of this region, the blueprints for creating the Astara Special Commercial and Industrial Zone have been passed to the Cabinet."

He said, "In the near future, the international border of Astara will be the only border that enjoys the means of transportation through sea, air, railway, and on the road."

For constructing the multipurpose port of Astara a 17 billion-rial budget is allocated this year and another 3 billion rials for connecting the Astara railway to the one in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The multipurpose port of Astara will include fishing, commercial, and tourist quays. The first phase of this project is completed and its second phase is now under construction."

Following the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, the border port of Astara has turned to one of the largest commercial ports north of Iran.



ROWHANI

IRAN NEWS PARLIAMENTARY DESK
TEHRAN - Iran has allocated an average of \$2.7b a year to the defense budget since the end of the 1980-1988 war against Iraq, Majlis Vice Speaker Hassan Rowhani said yesterday.

He added during a session of the Majlis that the figure was very low for a country as big as Iran with a population of more than 60 million.

"This is a good indication that we do not pursue an aggressive

policy despite the malicious propaganda against the Islamic Republic," he said, quoted by AFP.

Rowhani, who is also secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, the highest political and military decision-making body in Iran, compared his country's defense budget to those of the Arab neighbors across the Persian Gulf, which he said were "disproportionate."

"Our per capita defense budget is \$45, while those of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) and Kuwait are over \$1,000," he said.

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, submitting a budget proposal for next year to the Parliament, said Sunday that around 8.3 trillion rials had been appropriated for defense.

Rowhani also criticized the presence of American forces in the Persian Gulf to protect the oil-rich Persian Gulf Arab states,

charging that it created "tension" in the region. American warships have been stationed in the region since a U.S.-led military coalition drove Iraqi occupation troops from Kuwait in 1991.

"We hope our Arab brothers in the Persian Gulf will realize the fact that security would only be guaranteed through friendship and good neighborly ties and not by piling weapons purchased from foreigners," Rowhani warned.

He nevertheless called for a strong navy to serve as a deterrent against possible foreign attack, saying Iran had common sea borders with 12 countries.

The Iranian Navy and the elite Revolutionary Guards are presently engaged in major maneuvers in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

American and British officials have said the U.S. and allied warships would "closely" monitor the maneuvers to assess Iran's military capabilities.

tary-General



ote Regional Stability

iri Leader Seeks
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Crisis

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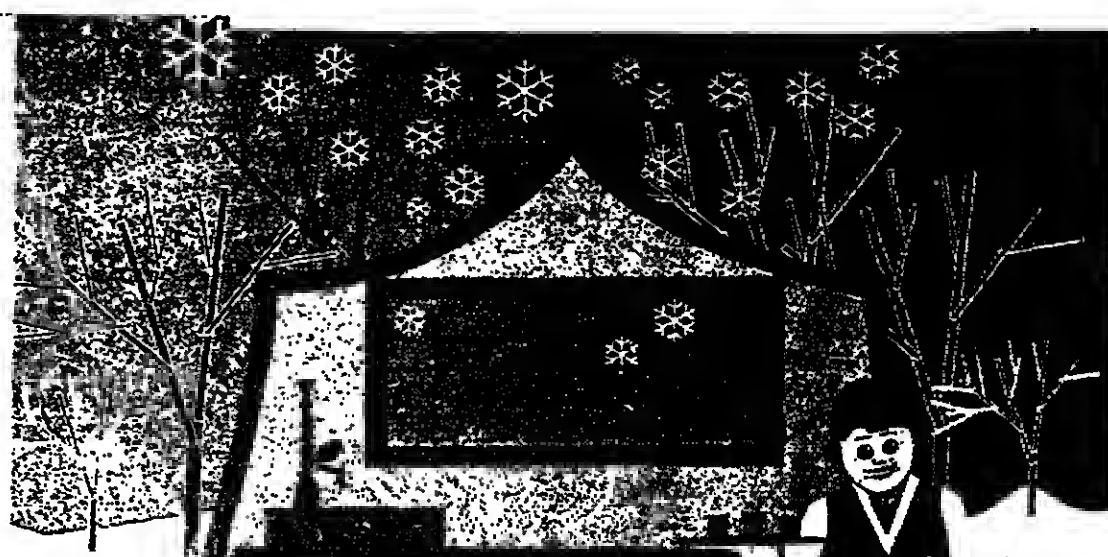
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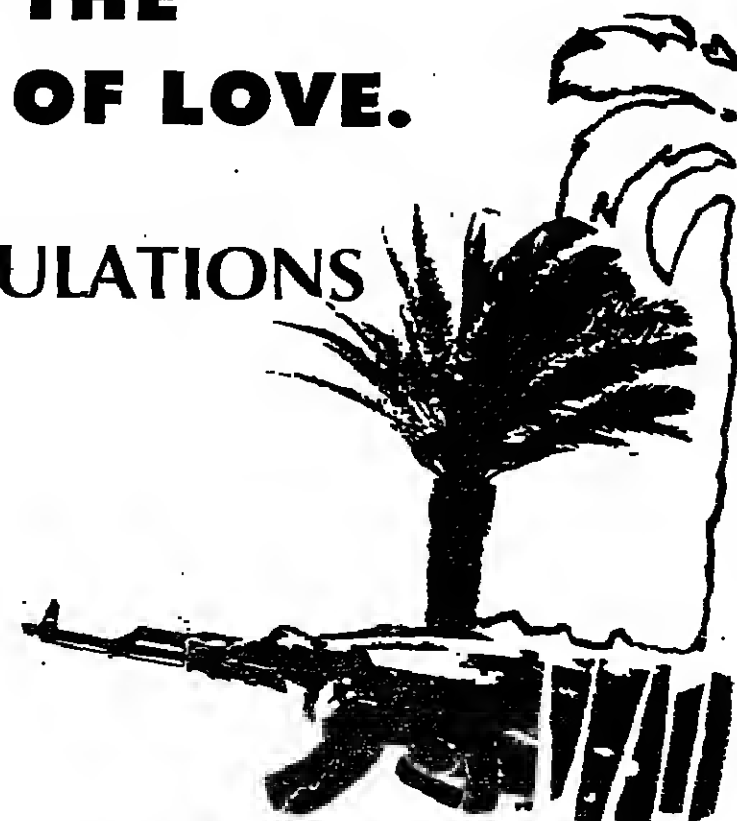
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IRAN
WORLD NEWS



NEW DELHI, INDIA - Vice President R.K. Narayanan of India (R) meets with visiting Iranian Parliament Speaker Nateq-Nouri who arrived here on Monday for a five-day visit.

edly supporting terrorism, which has been used to demonise Iran with Iraq, Tokyo, together with France and Germany, keep requesting evidence, he said.

He also criticized the extrajurisdictionality of U.S. sanctions against Iran as "inadmissible", suggesting that Washington was more concerned about its own interests such as selling arms and protecting American major oil companies in Arab states.

The conference, organized by the Royal Institute of International Affairs, was to explore the motives behind U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf, its differences with its allies and the shift in business patterns caused by U.S. sanctions.

It comes as the Council on Foreign Relations is expected to report its policy review findings by March, while Washington's Nixon Center for Peace and Freedom is understood to be halfway through its re-evaluation of Iran policy.

French author and former ambassador, Eric Rouleau, told the conference that there was even an ongoing debate within the Clinton administration which may lead to change of orientation.

Dual containment was not just a failure but was a "dangerous policy", he said, asking why the U.S. did not practice its traditional diplomacy exercised elsewhere in the world. Rouleau added that the benefits of normalizing the Persian Gulf area would probably lead to the departure of most if not all U.S. troops and to a sharp reduction in arms sales to the region.

Michael Sturmer of Germany's Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik also criticized U.S. policy for having no element of detente and warned that the U.S. military presence was provocative to the rise of Islam.

With regard to Washington resorting to a secondary boycott in pursuit of its containment policy, he said that Iran had opened up cracks itself in the sanctions regime.

In a speech full of irony, Alexei Vassiliev of the Russian Academy of Sciences, chided the U.S. in its hypocritical claim that its policy was guided by "high moral principals".

Unlike Washington, good relations with Iran was Russia's

"number one priority in the region", he said, citing that Tehran and Moscow found similarly close positions on many issues, including solving the legal status of the Caspian Sea.

bazan Foundation (MJF), announced readiness to carry out projects in Kashmir.

Regional Cooperation Development Organization (RCD).

Founder members -- Iran, Pakistan and Turkey -- renamed the organization in 1985, calling it the ECO. "The RCD was restructured and revived as ECO," Ozar recalled.

"In 1992, ECO was expanded to include seven new members; Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan," he said.

"True, ECO importance was enhanced because of dramatic developments in the world, and in the region particularly," Ozar said, referring to the disintegration of the Soviet Union which paved the way for expansion of the ECO.

He said that besides the fall of the Soviet Union, other developments such as the establishment of NAFTA, EU and APEC, had enhanced the importance of the ECO.

He said that the meeting of the Council of Ministers will meet here in Tehran next April or May to make certain important decisions to inject new life into the ECO.

"To cope with the new challenges, the ECO needs certain specific steps and we hope that the next meeting of the Council of Ministers will be a landmark in this direction," Ozar said.

ECO members have agreed to reduce tariffs for 40 to 50 commercial items, he said, but because of the rules and regulations of certain other organizations, the plan could not work.

"Preferential trade is not working because of rules and regulations set by other international organizations, including the World Trade Organization (WTO)," he said.

As economic development and stability are in direct relationship with one another, regional cooperation would serve as a catalyst to this end.

Finally, if the members do not speedily try to activate and dynamize the ECO, the organization might, in the coming years, not be able to sustain, in view of the rapid emergence of regional and international organizations such as the Organization of the Caspian Sea Littoral States, the ASEAN, and WTO.

ECO members have decided to list the items for the reduced tariffs, which includes craft paper, cotton yarn, iron and steel bars and wires, iron ore and leather goods, Ozar said.

Relations between Iran and Germany became strained over German prosecutor's charges last week that the Iranian officials ordered the killing of three Kurds and their translator at a Berlin restaurant in 1992.

Kohl in his letter stressed that it was in the two nations' interest to avoid tension in bilateral ties. The prosecutor's allegations triggered angry protests in Iran. The angry mob in Tehran went in front of the German Embassy and expressed their abhorrence against the unfounded charges against top officials of the Islamic Republic.

Rafsanjani in his Friday prayer's sermon pledged to protect ties with Germany after receiving the letter from Kohl and said that he would reply to the chancellor.

"The reply will be handed over to the chancellor on Friday," the same source said.

rector of the Persian daily Jahan-e Islami, which was closed by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance on Feb. 7, 1994. He is considered to hold extreme views on both national and international issues.

He voiced concern over present social trends, claiming society is dominated by one particular faction. "The present situation is such that the future president should be strong because one faction has all the publicity means at its disposal... whether it be broadcast or print," he commented without elaboration.

He said the only chance for the Followers of the Imam's Line was through personal contact. "It seems there is a feigned competition between the two candidates of the ruling faction... if we name a candidate all our hope is pinned on our supporters' work...." Khamenei said.

He did not name the two candidates, but was obviously alluding to Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri and former Information Minister Mohammed Mohammadi Reyshahi.

Payam-e Daneshjoo is another publication which was closed down by the government. It's managing director, Heshmatollah Tabarzadi, addressed the students at Tehran University, appealing to the people to form councils for publicity of the presidential elections.

Tabarzadi said, "If we prevent the participation of the free press and groups in political and social affairs, the ruling class will be undermined." He is also secretary-general of the Islamic Association of University Students and Graduates.

"The people should be permitted to express their views on various issues....," he stated. "What is certain is that the president, the MPs, are elected by the people. Therefore, the basis of the authority of the system is the people's vote."

"If the conditions are right for healthy competition, we shall independently nominate a candidate," Tabarzadi said.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Association of Students of Tehran University and Tehran University of Medical Sciences

of Students of Tehran University and Tehran University of Medical Sciences yesterday issued a statement on the upcoming presidential elections. The full text follows:

"Our president should be a Muslim and should leave no stone unturned for the dignity and glory of the Islamic Iran. Our president should be Iranian by birth and prefer no other interests to national interests. "Our president should be brave, not an abstract bravery, not the bravery set forth by some people to strengthen their position and make their living through it. "Bravery does not mean creating a subjective foreign enemy to destroy the mentality created for the national interests. Bravery means that our president should be able to cleanse our country's biggest economic organization, namely the Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation (MJF).

"Our president should be brave to be able to fully enforce the law of the councils. He should be so brave as to sacrifice everything for this cause. Our president should be brave to be able to remove the official barriers which the government has set before the formation of parties in the country. Indeed, our president should be brave!!

"Our president should be efficient to unite the different strata of people around the axis of national interests. Our president should be brave to be able to remove the numerous foreign policy deadlocks based on national interests not in accordance with empty slogans.

"Our president should be brave to be able to introduce to the people whoever and whatever prevents a reform in the diseased bureaucracy. Our president should be brave to inform the people of whatever prevents them from determining their own destiny. And finally, our president should be brave to be able to remove any obstacle along the path of the society's perfection and progress toward divine traits. To this end, he should not fear ouster, excommunication, impeachment, etc.

"We found all these features in a person whose entire life has been spent in close contact with the university, a university whose students have always been the forerunners and solved problems. On behalf of the university community, we request the Secretary General of the Islamic Union of Students and Managing Director of the Payam-e Daneshjoo Weekly, Engineer Heshmatollah Tabarzadi, to accept being nominated as candidate of the seventh round of presidential elections to materialize all the aforementioned objectives."

Islamic Association of Students of Tehran University and Tehran University of Medical Sciences.

fore India became a British colony. Persian was the official language and served as a vehicle of expression among the country's different vernacular groups," Sharma said.

"India has produced famous Persian scholars and poets. The Indian president, referring to the trade and economic ties between Tehran and New Delhi, said that Iran provided the most important, the safest and the surest way to the Central Asian markets.

On the crisis in Afghanistan, he said that India pursued peace and supported the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this regard.

Nateq-Nouri expressed satisfaction over the two countries' bilateral cooperation, and said the joint economic commission was an ideal forum for expansion of ties. The Speaker arrived here on Monday for a 5-day visit at the head of a high-ranking parliamentary delegation.

The Iranian official also met with the Indian Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Shrikant Jena, on Tuesday. Jena said the representatives of the Indian people in Parliament "are very happy with the expansion of cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries and the presence of the speaker of the Iranian Parliament in India."

Jena added that the Indian Parliament was interested in further expansion of cooperation between the two countries. He pointed out that the Indian Parliament had vast powers and a very important role in decision-making. He also hoped that, with India and Iran having a number of tourist attractions, cooperation in tourism would expand.

Nateq-Nouri said he was happy to visit India, and that one of the important goals of Iran's foreign policy was to expand cooperation with the important countries of the region. The Speaker added that Iran believed expanded cooperation had an important role to play in the maintenance of peace and security in the region.

Of parliamentary cooperation, Nateq-Nouri said Iran "is very happy with this and believes that it would have a very important role in the overall expansion of bilateral ties."

He said that the idea of setting up the Indo-Iranian parliamentarians friendship group was a valuable way to enhance the interaction between the two parliaments and indicative of the friendship between the two nations. In other news, relations between Iran and India, as well as major regional developments, figured in a meeting between Nateq-Nouri, and Indian Vice President K.R. Narayanan.

The Iranian Speaker said that the expansion of multilateral cooperation between the countries in the region "is essential for regional peace and stability." He cited as an example the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to defuse regional crises, especially in Tajikistan and Afghanistan, and said crisis-resolution was an important principle in Iranian foreign policy.

"Today, Iran is happy that it has the distinction of having brought about the end to many a conflict in the region," Nateq-Nouri stated. He added that the Regional Conference on Afghanistan in Tehran recently was an important step toward implementing peace and stability in that country.

"In future, Iran will, with all seriousness, continue its efforts for the restoration of peace and normalcy in Afghanistan," he said.

Narayanan told Nateq-Nouri that "commonalities" related the two nations of Iran and India. He underlined the importance of continued expansion of bilateral cooperation, and called Iran's role in maintaining peace and stability "noteworthy."

He said India appreciated peaceful efforts by Iran in the region as well as the world, and hoped Iranian efforts would motivate the Non-Aligned Movement, which was necessary in the existing global political scenario.

The Indian vice president pointed out that India opposed outside interference in the region, and believed that the region's security

should be maintained by those countries within it.

The Iranian delegation yesterday went to Agra to see the historic Taj Mahal. It was built by Emperor Shahjahan for his wife, Mumtaz Mahal in the middle of the 17th century.

In another development, Nateq-Nouri had a working luncheon meeting with Indian Prime Minister H.D. Gowda at the Prime Ministry. The Iranian Majlis Speaker told Deve Gowda of his "entire satisfaction" with the way bilateral ties were going.

"Scope to expand Irano-Indian relations exists, and the Majlis is ready to give a hand in expanding these ties," Nateq-Nouri said, adding that all efforts should be made to revive the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Referring to the Kashmir issue, Nateq-Nouri said, "We are concerned over the issue of Kashmir and hope that this matter will be solved according to the aspirations of its people and leaders."

In light of the good relations between Iran and both India and Pakistan, Nateq-Nouri offered the Islamic Republic's services as mediator in the Kashmiri dispute.

The Indian prime minister said, "We are trying for peace in Kashmir and oppose American meddling there."

India wants to expand ties with Iran, Deve Gowda said. He hailed the Tehran conference on the Afghan crisis, saying, "We support Tehran on the Afghan issue and consider the (President Burhanuddin) Rabbani government as legitimate." He said foreign interference in Afghan affairs complicated the situation.

Demonstrations have been held in front of Germany's Embassy in Tehran and protesters have called for the execution of the prosecutor Bruno Jost.

But Kinkel told Parliament: "We are seeing on the part of the Iranian government the desire to calm the developments."

"Relations which have a long tradition and which have been painstakingly built up cannot be turned on and off like a tap."

Kinkel also insisted on the neutrality of the German justice system, which he has repeatedly stressed to Iran, and said the government had at no time tried to influence the trial.

gence of new economic blocs proved the benefits of regional cooperation, and that the expansion of ECO's transregional activities, and its progressive relations with other regional and international organizations, emphasized its important role.

charter concerning the obligation of the council in submitting reports to the General Assembly is to assure those members not represented in the council to be fully informed of its activities, he stated adding, it is however extremely doubtful whether such an idea has ever been materialized.

Belarus from the end of the 18th century to the collapse of the Soviet Union in December 1991.

Beleaguered Serbian President Faces Further Mass Demonstrations

BELGRADE (AFP) - Beleaguered Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic faced a ninth straight day of mass demonstration in Belgrade yesterday over the cancellation of election results, while the opposition boycotted reruns of the polls.

Thousands of striking students marched through the streets of the capital protesting at the "theft" of votes by the authorities.

In a major breakthrough, the opposition coalition together wrested control of Belgrade and other key towns from the ruling Serbian Socialist Party in the last round of local elections on November 17.

It was the first time that Belgrade had not been in the hands of the socialists since the fall of Communism in the former Yugoslavia in 1990.

However, the opposition's victory was overturned by the authorities who cancelled a series of results on the basis of "irregularities" and called reruns for yesterday.

"This is the most shameful crime in the history of European civilisation,"

Vuk Draskovic, one of the coalition leaders, said.

Draskovic, who heads the Serbian Renewal Movement, called for his supporters to gather late yesterday on the main Belgrade Square. Tens of thousands were expected to be there.

The United States has been among those who have condemned the decision to cancel the results, with State Department spokesman Glyn Davies saying

that it "invalidates Serbia's claim to be a country evolving towards democracy."

Milosevic, who has been keeping a low profile since the crisis broke, was among those who voted yesterday in the reruns, which the opposition said they would boycott at the risk of losing their majority.

"I hope those chosen for local councils will be successful in their duties. I wish them success," he said after casting his ballot.

The elections are crucial for Milosevic, since local authorities often control the media, over which he has maintained an iron grip in order to stay in power.

The Serbian president has yet

to react to the claims of electoral fraud or to an opposition request for a meeting.

The reruns, ordered Sunday, were organised in a hurry, without time to send out new voting cards or officially notify most voters.

The authorities were allowing people to vote after just showing their identity cards.

Around midday (11:00 GMT) in some Belgrade stations, turnout was between 10 to 15 percent, unofficial estimates said.

On Tuesday night, the Serbian Supreme Court rejected an opposition appeal against the cancellation of the results and upheld the decision to hold reruns.

Bhutto's Detained

Husband Shifted to Karachi

KARACHI, PAKISTAN (AFP) - Asif Ali Zardari, detained husband of deposed Premier Benazir Bhutto, was flown from Islamabad to Karachi yesterday, police and witnesses here said.

Zardari was not allowed to meet relatives or friends at the airport, witnesses said.

Soon after landing, he was led to a police armored vehicle which took him to an undisclosed location, the sources said.

Zardari was moved to Karachi from a police guest house at Sihaj near Islamabad, where he had been under detention since the November 5 dismissal of Bhutto's government by President Farooq Ahmed

Leghari.

His transfer coincided with the withdrawal earlier yesterday of the detention order against him in the Punjab, under a law which allows detention for up to three months for someone considered a threat to public peace.

The sources said the Sindh provincial government had issued a separate detention order against Zardari.

Charges against Zardari have not been specified.

Leghari in his proclamation accused Bhutto's three-year old government of corruption, administrative irregularities and lawlessness, and set fresh elections for February.

Russian Troops to Leave Chechnya

MOSCOW, RUSSIA (AFP) - The last Russian troops in Chechnya will have left the breakaway republic by January 25, the Interfax news agency reported here yesterday, citing a source in the Russian armed forces general staff.

President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree Saturday ordering the withdrawal of the last two units still in Chechnya, but gave no date.

However Kremlin spokesman Sergei Yastzhembsky indicated then that the pullout would take place before presidential and legislative elections in the republic, which are due to take place January 27.

He said the vote should not "take place under the menace of the gun."

The source told Interfax that units of the Defense Ministry's 205th brigade would start leaving on December 1.

Russian officials met yesterday to finalize plans for the withdrawal, which has sparked uproar among the opposition.

Communist and nationalist deputies have blasted the decree as treason and said it will lead to the collapse of Russia. They have called for the decree to be suspended and threatened to launch impeachment proceedings against the president.

Moscow had originally said the 205th brigade and the Interior Ministry's 101st brigade still stationed in the republic would stay there permanently.

Former Indian PM Faces His Accuser in Fraud Case

NEW DELHI, INDIA (AFP) - Former Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao here yesterday came face to face in court with the man who accuses him of being involved in a \$100,000 fraud.

Pickle businessman Lakhubhai Pathak was cross-examined by defense lawyers on the first day of evidence in a special top-security high court.

Rao, a Hindu mystic called Chandraswami and his secretary stand accused by the British-based entrepreneur of asking him for the money in return for business contracts which never materialized.

Pathak told the court that he was asked by Chandraswami to deposit

\$100,000 in a bank account after a meeting in New York in 1983 to prove the "financial soundness" of his company.

He alleged that Chandraswami had promised him, with Rao's help, a government contract for the supply of newsprint and paper pulp. Rao was foreign minister at the time.

The 75-year-old Rao, prime minister from 1991 until general elections earlier this year, is currently on bail in three unrelated cases of corruption.

The other two cases involve accusations of vote-buying to save his government and alleged forgery to frame a political rival.



SRINAGAR, KASHMIR, INDIA: Kashmiri Muslims carry the body of a slain comrade, under the watchful eyes of Indian army soldiers (background), Nov. 26 in Koel village, in Kashmir's southern Pulwama district. Four Muslim militants were killed during a gunbattle sparked when soldiers sealed off the village and began searching houses.

(AFP Photo)

PROMOTIONAL ITEM

Interview with Tavanir Co.'s Production Planning director

Planning Is the Secret to Production

Uncontrolled increase in population, scarcity of natural resources, limitation of land and capital are all parts of the confusing puzzle of the contemporary man's survival. While the terrestrial food basket is getting smaller and less, the ones who share it, however, continue to come to grab a bite.

Therefore, we must think of a solution to prevent the day when the earth like a balloon full of air vanishes by the small touch of a pin. The solution to this, is only in the minds of the economists and technical sciences and human resources planners.

Regarding this issue, one of the working ways which has been presented and always defended in the past 200 years by the classical economists, is the increase in production, of course to reach this goal, many of the Third World Countries'

Electricity, as an industrial product, is offered to all the people in the society. Thus it should possess its special desired particularities in order to satisfy the consumers.

people and natural resources have been colonized and plundered.

But what has been brought into discussion after the production increase, is the low price and high quality of the products. If not so, we can not hope for the creation of a consumption market. This important task could not be materialized either, unless shadowed by the existence of a manager who is competent and also a planner, so he can identify the various routes in production and connect them together.

It is true that the twentieth century is the century of atom, information, explosion,



expansion of communications, etc..., but the twentieth century is also the century of "acceleration in production" and if our thoughts (as a developing country) are not well directed toward this point, then we will fall behind the high accelerating global society.

It is for this reason, that the authorities of the nation's electric industry by offering the most widespread services to the society, meaning offering of electricity, are always in search of a sure and suitable production for this important and strategic product. One of the executive arms, which is heavily active in this field, is the director of the Office for Production Planning of Tavanir Co.

To familiarize ourselves with the responsibilities of this office and bringing up some of the general topics, we arranged for an

interview with Mr. Ali Reza Qotbi the director of the Office for Production Planning of Tavanir Co. below are the excerpts:

"Every individual, group, organization, and society is interested in having descriptive and/or prepared guidelines, so it won't be confused and unassigned about its own future. Therefore, the need to discuss planning arises. In this direction, the "planner should be able to prepare the desired plan by putting the various parts and elements together and in fact planning is the art of exactly predicting and assessing the future of every person which has an interest." Mr. Qotbi said in describing the "planning."

"The director of a planning unit should coordinate himself with the economic conditions of the country, and this is done by the directors full control over the global and national economic issues, such as fuel and energy, levels of economic growth and levels of investment pressures. In this way, if the planning director is able to collect and coordinate the existing facts, achieving an accurate plan will not be out of reach," said the director of the Office for Production Planning, emphasizing the characteristics of a planning director.

"Electricity as an industrial product is offered to all the people of the society. Thus it should possess its own special and desired particularities. It must be offered continuously and at all times it should have the suitable voltage and frequency and finally it should be offered at a balance price," Mr. Qotbi said while considering the satisfaction of customers while offering the product a necessity.

"In our studies division, we are in contact with the international organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Organization and

we use their findings and software for the better development of the country's electricity production.

"Also, considering the forecast for the country's electricity production in the future, the fuel situation, electricity consumption increases, existing technologies, and also by studying the systems, types of power plants and the proper location for their constructions, we prepares our reports."

"Assessment of power plan budgets under construction is another one of the duties of the Office for Production Planning, which we follow up on the construction of new power plants by paying attention to the physical development of the plan and the needed cost," said the director of the office while pointing to the office's most important duty which is studying the various divisions of the electricity industry.

Mr. Qotbi considers the economic calculations, on the cost price of electricity for sales to the neighboring countries as one of the duties of the office

The director of a planning unit should coordinate himself with the country's economic conditions, and this is done by the director's full control over the global and national economic issues.

"By Iran entering the field of electricity export to the neighboring countries, the employees of the economic studies division of the office, calculate the cost price of electricity in Iran, and considering the competitive international prices, announce the suitable prices to the top directors at the countries electricity industry," he concluded.

U.N. Oil-for-Food
Arrive in Iraq

Indian
Ambassador
Attacked
Over
Army PM
in Above
Charges

Tali

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "السلامة العامة"

IRAN
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.N. Oil-for-Food Monitors Arrive in Iraq, Dinar Surges

BAGHDAD, IRAQ (AFP) - Four U.N. experts arrived here yesterday to inspect customs areas which will receive humanitarian goods under an oil-for-food deal with the United Nations.

The Iraqi dinar surged meanwhile against the dollar and food prices fell in anticipation of the first Iraqi oil sales since economic sanctions were imposed after the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

U.N. expert Michael Westropp said his group from Lloyds of London would speak to Iraqi and U.N. officials over the next two days before heading to the customs areas to inspect facilities through which the shipments will pass.

"We will check three border locations," Westropp told AFP. The areas are at Umm-Qasr on the Persian Gulf, Terbil on the border with Jordan, and Zakho on the border with Turkey.

"Our mission is to check food and medical supplies," said Westropp, whose group traveled overland from Jordan.

Iraq informed the United Nations on Monday that had it accepted all U.N. terms which had blocked implementation of the oil-

for-food deal signed on May 26.

A pricing formula still has to be approved and more monitors have to be deployed in Iraq before the deal can be implemented, but diplomats estimate oil could begin to flow in mid-December.

In New York, a U.N. spokesman said more than 150 U.N. observers are to monitor the distribution of food and medication obtained by Iraq under the deal.

According to a preliminary report by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to the U.N. Security Council, there were to be 151 observers monitoring the situation in Iraq and another eight at the United Nations headquarters.

In addition, there were to be 32 customs agents to supervise the arrival of humanitarian imports, and 14 officials charged with monitoring Iraqi oil exports.

Diplomats also said that Lloyds of London would control the delivery of humanitarian aid to Iraq and the Dutch company Saybolt would supervise the oil shipments.

Under the deal, Iraq can export two billion dollars of oil every six months in return for food and

medicine, but some of the money will be used to defray U.N. costs and go toward war reparations stemming from the invasion of Kuwait.

The dinar was trading for 750 dinars to the dollar yesterday, compared to 1,650 dinars before the Iraqi authorities announced Monday they had agreed to U.N. terms for implementing the deal, currency dealers said.

They added that they expected the dinar to strengthen further as Iraq came closer to exporting its first oil shipments to international markets in six years.

Food prices decreased by around 35 percent.

A kilogram (2.2 pounds) of flour sold for 400 dinars compared to 660 dinars on Monday while a kilogram of sugar sold for 500 dinars, down from 750 dinars on Tuesday.

But Iraqis still hesitated to make big purchases while waiting for another fall in prices, residents said.

In an apparent bid to reassure the public, the official news media started saying Tuesday evening that there had been substantial decreases in basic food prices.

Economic Cooperation Could Eclipse Regional Disputes



ZEMIN

MANILA, PHILIPPINES (AFP) - Presidents Jiang Zemin and Fidel Ramos put the Spratly Islands dispute on the backburner in favor of increased economic cooperation between China and the Philippines at talks here, officials said yesterday.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Domingo Siason said "you cannot expect quick solutions" to the dispute because "this has to be taken in the context of total relations plus in the context of development in the region."

Siason said both leaders agreed

to put their claims on the Spratlys — a chain of atolls, shoals and coral reefs reputedly rich in oil and natural gas — on the backburner and focus on joint development in fishery, oil and gas exploration and environment protection.

However, President Fidel Ramos said this did not mean setting aside Manila's and Beijing's overlapping claims over the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, highlighted by the Chinese occupation of the Philippine-claimed Mischief Reef in 1995.

"We are not setting aside anything. We are just saying that the environmental issues, the development issues are now put in the forefront instead of the so-called sovereignty issue," he said at a news conference.

"If there is a way to improve livelihood, generate more jobs, increase family incomes among us,



RAMOS

why not give that priority instead of maintaining hot positions in regard to the sovereignty issue," he added.

Jiang and Ramos were a picture of neighborly harmony yesterday, launching into duets of Western pop songs aboard the latter presidential yacht as it toiled along on Manila Bay.

U.S. Evacuation of 5,000 Iraqi Kurds Likely to Start Next Week

ANKARA, TURKEY (AFP) - The U.S. evacuation of nearly 5,000 Kurdish aid workers and their families from Northern Iraq is likely to start next week, a Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Sermet Atacani told reporters the operation was set for early December. "This evacuation will be carried out at the request of the American government and we consider this operation in a humanitarian context," he said.

Washington announced Monday that it would resettle the Kurds in the United States, via Turkey and Guam, in the third such operation in as many months.

In September, U.S. authorities airlifted about 2,140 Kurds who worked for the U.S. government

and an additional 600 Kurdish opposition activists were evacuated in October to protect them from reprisals by Iraqi agents.

But the employees of U.S.-based or U.S.-funded aid agencies would be the largest group to be taken out of Northern Iraq since Iraqi troops made an incursion into the Kurdish-held area in late August.

The Kurds will cross from Northern Iraq to the Turkish border town of Silopi before traveling to Guam, a U.S. outpost in the Pacific, where they will be granted the necessary documentation to enter the continental United States.

U.S. officials have maintained that Iraqi agents are operating in Northern Iraq and have targeted Kurds linked with the U.S. government.

Ivory Coast Says Its Foreign Minister Could Replace Boutros-Ghali

ABIDJAN, IVORY COAST (AFP) - The president of the Ivory Coast has raised the possibility of his foreign minister taking over for Boutros Boutros-Ghali when his term as U.N. secretary general ends next month, newspapers said yesterday.

They said President Henri Konan Bedie floated the name of the minister, Amara Essy, in talks Tuesday in Paris with President Jacques Chirac but stressed that Essy was not yet a formal candidate for the job.

"Mr. Essy is completely up to the task," Bedie was quoted as saying. "He has been president of the U.N. General Assembly, he can do the job."

Konan stressed that African countries' efforts to have another African replace Boutros-Ghali, who is Egyptian, were being coordinated by the Organization of African Unity. That is why Ivory Coast is not formally presenting Essy as a candidate, he added.

UNITA Calls for Elections and Summit Over Angola

LUANDA, ANGOLA (AFP) - Angola's armed opposition movement UNITA has called for fresh general elections in 1999 and urged a new meeting between President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and UNITA Leader Jonas Savimbi.

In a communiqué late Tuesday, the party said Savimbi was ready to meet Dos Santos for talks on the political future of the country chaired by Omar Bongo and Nelson Mandela, respectively presidents of Gabon and South Africa.

It also urged a second round of presidential elections as soon as possible. The first round was held

in 1992 but was rejected by UNITA as Dos Santos edged ahead of Savimbi.

That in turn sparked a resumption of the civil war and the second round was never organized.

Both sides signed a peace agreement in Lusaka in late 1994, ending a total of 20 years of conflict.

Earlier this month, Parliament extended its own mandate, which was due to end Tuesday, to an unspecified date when political conditions are met for new elections.

UNITA stressed the importance of a further meeting be-

tween Savimbi and Dos Santos but did not propose either a date or place for the summit. The two leaders have met several times since the accord, but never in Luanda.

The statement by the National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola also reaffirmed its commitment to the peace process and the Lusaka Accord.

However it denounced what it termed as a "constitutional putsch" a decision by Parliament to scrap two posts of vice president on the grounds they were no longer relevant after Savimbi refused to take up one of them.

Belgian Prosecutor Attacked Over Deputy PM Child Abuse Charges

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (AFP) - Belgium's interior minister yesterday bitterly attacked a prosecutor who has accused Deputy Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo of having sex with minors, and said he thought his colleague may have been the victim of a police plot.

"It is possible that a section of the police wanted to show that it could bring down even those in the highest places," Johan Vande Lanotte said in an interview with the Libre Belgique daily.

The minister said he was convinced his socialist colleague was innocent. "That is clear. If it was not the case, I would not be by his side."

Last week Andre van Ouden-hove, the chief prosecutor in Brussels, asked for Di Rupo to be stripped of immunity from prosecution so he could be indicted on charges that he had sex with a 15-year-old in 1989.

Taliban Pushes North of Kabul as Thousands Flee

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN (AFP) - Thousands of Afghan civilians were fleeing villages north of the capital Kabul Thursday as the Taliban consolidated its grip on newly captured territory.

The Muslim militia captured the villages of Kalakan and Istalif Tuesday from opposition coalition forces with minimal fighting, Taliban soldiers and fleeing villagers told AFP close to the frontlines.

"Most of the fighting was concentrated on the main road, as the Taliban were advancing," said Shamsuddin, a resident of Kalakan.

The village of Kalakan is on the so-called old road 40 kilometers (25 miles) due north of Kabul, while Istalif is 15 kilometers (10 miles) further northwest, below a range of snowy mountains.

The old road is one of two northbound highways exiting Kabul, where most of the fighting between the Taliban and the opposing coalition — made up of ousted government troops loyal to Ahmed Shah Masood and forces of northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostam — has been concentrated.

On this highway a moving stream of well over two thousand displaced civilians was counted by journalists. They were fleeing the fighting in which many villages were heavily damaged by the intense exchange of rockets and artillery.

These local civilians, some on overcrowded buses but most on foot and carrying whatever belongings they could manage, were heading south to seek sanctuary in the now-peaceful capital Kabul.

Frontline Taliban soldiers said they were conducting a mopping-up operation in their captured ter-

ritory, involving house-to-house searches through farm buildings in the once-thriving agricultural area.

Civilians fleeing the area were subject to close searches at Taliban checkpoints on the main road, where the ultra-strict fundamentalist militia confiscated and smashed "un-Islamic" music cassette-tapes which they hung from their posts.

The frontlines between the opposing forces are now at the old road district center of Qarabagh, with the Taliban Militia firmly in positions on the south side of town, Taliban fighters confirmed.

Cambodian PM Arrives in North

SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA (AFP) - Cambodia's First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh arrived in this northern town yesterday in part to look into the mystery surrounding the fate of a British mine clearance expert abducted eight months ago by the Khmer Rouge.

"I have come here to check developments on the hostage (situation)," the prince told reporters upon arriving at the airport here, adding that a team of 30 soldiers sent into the jungle to search for Christopher Howes had not yet reported in.

"I am optimistic but still waiting for the news," said the prince. He said he expected some "development" in the situation today or early Friday.

Last Thursday, military officials said Howes, 37, of Bristol, had been rescued by a group of guerrillas who wanted to defect and would turn him over to the government the following day at a rendezvous point in central Kampong Thom Province.

The group never turned up though and since then, there has been no word from the would-be defectors and the British Embassy here and Foreign Office in London have been unable to confirm any of the reports.



LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM: British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind (R) listens to the Syrian Foreign Minister, Mr. Farooq Shara whilst he gives a doorstep news conference to surrounding journalists at Mr. Rifkind's official residence in London, Nov. 26. (AFP Photo)

ry-General



a Regional Stable

ri Leader Seek Help to Solve Crisis

Don't

In-Form Els Aims for Million-Dollar Success

SUN CITY, SOUTH AFRICA (Reuters) - British Open champion Tom Lehman and three times world matchplay winner Ernie Els head a formidable field of 12 for the 1996 \$ one million challenge starting on Thursday. Lehman is probably the form player of the year while Els comes to the Gary Player Country Club fresh from South Africa's commanding World Cup victory last weekend. Els, who has never won the Sun City event said: "I've thought about this tournament every day for a whole year. It's one I really want to win, and need to win."

Sports Highlights

They Came, They Saw, They Conquered

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL (AP) - They came, they saw and they left without a hint of Rio's chances for hosting the 2004 Olympics.

One thing was for sure, the 19-member International Olympic Committee Evaluation Commission wrapped up its four-day visit Monday after seeing a lot of Rio's enthusiasm.

From their arrival in pouring rain Thursday afternoon, commission members were followed by cheering crowds as they toured potential Olympic sites.

When the sun finally came out Sunday, the enthusiasm was turned up a notch, culminating in an orchestra concert and fireworks by the lagoon below Rio's mountain-top statue of Christ.

Commission members kicked soccer balls into the goals at Latin America's largest stadium and watched as the word "goal" ran across the scoreboard. They danced the Samba at a rehearsal of Rio's oldest Samba school. And they donned Indian headdresses as they shot arrows with representatives of the Xavante Tribe on Copacabana beach.

"I had a great time and there were a few moments when I could relax, but a candidacy is not only about fun. It is also important to take into account the technical aspects," said Thomas Bach, the IOC Evaluation Commission President.

Noah Set to Win Accolades

PARIS (Reuters) - No-playing captains do not usually win accolades in Davis Cup finals.

This weekend though, Yannick Noah, a gifted under-achiever as a player, will prove the exception if his French Team upset Sweden in Malmo.

At the age of 36, Noah remains a flamboyant figure with his Rastafarian locks and carefree grin.

But he is aware that his career should have produced more than his one Grand Slam victory in the 1983 French Open at Roland Garros and admits he could have benefited from some guidance.

"My objective is to play the role today of the guy I didn't have," Noah said in an interview.

Five years ago, Noah inspired Henri Leconte and Guy Forget to an upset win over the United States in Lyon.

"I understood that emotion was a force and that Forget and Leconte were receptive, that they needed that," he said.

"But that fuel is not necessarily good for everyone. On a tactical level, for me at the time, a ball in the middle of the court was an attacking ball."

Patrice Hagelauer, Noah's former personal coach at the time of his French Open victory and now the Davis Cup team trainer, confirmed the change Noah has gone through in five years.

"In 1991, Yannick was still playing, he knew the French players and the foreign ones, because he played against them and saw them all year round on the circuit."

He was very close to Leconte and Forget, "who were like little brothers to him and had enormous respect and admiration for him".

"He had an incredible influence over both of them... if he'd told them to dive 10 meters into an empty pool, they'd have done it."

With players he knew far less well in the current team, he has "had to learn to understand how they tick to get close to them and get the same commitment he got from the 'little brothers'".

He said Noah, who left the job in 1993 and 1994, worked hard at learning how to understand and handle men such as Pioline, whose tennis background was quite different from the average French player, and Boetsch.

Noah's motivational abilities will be put fully to the test in Malmo this weekend.

Both his singles players, Cedric Pioline and Arnaud Boetsch, are ranked below Sweden's Thomas Enqvist and Stefan Edberg, but proved their fighting qualities by coming from behind to defeat Italy in their semifinal.

As a true Frenchman, Noah sets great store by mealtimes with his team, believing it helps attain a family unity.

"That's when we discuss things," he said. "Look at the poor Yanks who scarf their hamburgers in 10 minutes. Sitting down to a meal is extremely important."



GUY FORGET

IRAN NEWS

Nuggets' Coach Resigns

DENVER (Reuters) - Bernie Bickerstaff has stepped down as head coach of the Denver Nuggets and handed over the reins to long-time NBA coach Dick Motta the team confirmed Tuesday. Bickerstaff, who is in his seventh year with the nuggets' organization, will remain team president and also assume the title of general manager. He had served as head coach since February, 1995. Todd Eley, named general manager by Bickerstaff last February, is now the team's vice president of basketball operations. The Nuggets are off to a 4-9 start and have lost their last four games.

VOL. III. No. 615 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials

Thursday November 28, 1996, Azar 8, 1375, Rajab 16, 1417



TOKYO, JAPAN: Alessandro Del Piero (C) of Juventus watches the ball passing through River Plate's goal keeper Roberto Oscar Bonano's hands (R) during the Toyota European/South American Cup November 26. European champion Juventus of Italy beat South American Champion River Plate 1-0.

(AFP Photo)

Hudson and Kirsten Play India in Second Test

CALCUTTA (AFP) - A 236-run partnership between South African openers Andrew Hudson and Gary Kirsten sent India on a leather hunt in the Second cricket Test at the Eden Gardens here on Wednesday.

Hudson made 146 and Kirsten contributed 102 as the South Afri-

cans took advantage of perfect batting conditions and sloppy catching to pile up 339 for two by close of the opening day's play.

A mammoth crowd of 85,000 watched the vaunted home attack reduced to pulp by the fired-up South Africans seeking to avenge the humiliating 64-run defeat in the First Test in Ahmedabad last week.

Hudson and Kirsten's run-a-minute stand fell just 24 short of South Africa's all-time record for the first wicket, 260 by Jack Siedle and Bruce Mitchell against England in 1930.

First test hero Javagal Srinath broke the partnership in the opening over after ten by shattering Kirsten's stumps with a deadly in-cutter.

Hudson, dropped twice off stumps before he had reached double figures, was dismissed an hour before close when he edged Venkatesh Prasad on to his wickets.

But there was little respite for the Indians on the easy-paced wicket as debutante Herschelle Gibbs (28 not out) and Daryll Cullinan (29 not out) added 43 for the unbroken third wicket.

Hudson hit 24 boundaries in his fourth test century and Kirsten 14 in his second, but both were lucky to survive a torrid first hour.

Saurav Ganguly, returning to the team on his home ground after missing the first test at Ahmedabad due to an ankle injury, let off Hudson at first slip in Srinath's second over.

The mucky Srinath, who engineered India's First Test win

with a career-best six for 21, then watched in horror as wicket-keeper Nayan Mongia spilled a simple catch as Hudson edged an outswinger.

Kirsten's first scoring shot was a streaky edge off Prasad which just eluded a diving Mohammad Azharuddin at second slip.

The pair capitalized on the fielders' generosity with ferocious strokeplay around the lush green outfield.

They moved to 98 by lunch and smashed a further 138 in 31 overs in the afternoon session.

Their effort easily surpassed the previous best by South Africa for the first wicket against India, Hudson and Kepler Wessels' 98 at Port Elizabeth in 1992.

Hudson, who was on 41 at lunch to Kirsten's 50, outscored his partner in the second session and reached his century half-an-hour before tea by slamming leg-spinner Narendra Hirwani for his 16th boundary.

Kirsten also reached his landmark with a cover-driven four off Hirwani in the last over of the second session.

Hudson appeared to lose his concentration after Kirsten's departure and fell 17 short of equaling his career-best of 163 made against the West Indies at Barbados in 1991-92.

More than 70,000 were present at the toss, won by South African captain Hansie Cronje, despite a general strike in the eastern metropolis to protest the eviction of hawkers from crowded street lanes.



Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct
Miami	10	4	714
Orlando	6	3	667
New York	8	5	615
Washington	7	6	538
Philadelphia	5	8	385
Boston	3	8	273
New Jersey	2	7	222

Central Division

Chicago	13	1	929
Detroit	10	2	833
Cleveland	9	3	750
Charlotte	7	5	583
Atlanta	8	6	571
Milwaukee	7	6	538
Indiana	3	8	273
Toronto	3	9	250

Western Conference

Midwest Division

Houston	13	1	929
Utah	9	2	818
Minnesota	5	7	417
Denver	5	9	357
Dallas	4	9	308
San Antonio	2	11	154
Vancouver	2	12	143

Pacific Division

Seattle	12	3	800
LA Lakers	10	5	667
Portland	8	6	571
LA Clippers	6	7	462
Sacramento	5	9	357
Golden State	3	10	231
Phoenix	0	13	000

Handwritten text in Persian script: "ایران ۱۵۰"

S. Africa, Brazil Discuss Boosting Ties

PRETORIA (AFP) - The presidents of South Africa and Brazil agreed Tuesday to boost bilateral ties after talks here which were dominated by economic matters and witnessed the signing of three cooperation accords.

"Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world, and therefore we have a lot to gain by developing relations," said South African President Nelson Mandela, after meeting with his Brazilian counterpart Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

Cardoso told reporters after the meeting economics had dominated the talks.

"With the economic progress that South Africa is making, links are bound to grow. We share the same vitality ... the same love for peace, the same love for democ-

cracy, the same need to reduce social differences and to increase economic growth," he said.

"We have a common heritage ... we are very proud to be a multi-racial society with an African heritage," the Brazilian leader said.

South Africa and Brazil intend to increase bilateral trade, which remains very low although Brazil represents more than half of South Africa's exports to Latin America.

In 1995, Brazil's exports to South Africa totalled 871 million rand (\$244.94 million) and its imports represented 1.3 billion rand (\$425 million).

This was a 31 percent increase from 1994, according to official figures.

Cardoso was to visit Johannesburg on Wednesday.

S. Korea Parliament Ratifies OECD Membership



Seoul was invited to join the OECD on October 11, but opposition members warned the group could force Korea to open its local markets to offshore competition too quickly.

Park Kwang-tae, a lawmaker with the main opposition National Congress for new politics, told parliament his party was not opposed to OECD membership in principle. It just wanted a delay.

"The troubled economy cannot withstand the shock of excessive market liberalization," he said.

Since applying for OECD membership in March 1995, South Korea has sped up liberalization of its financial markets to foreign investors and pledged further reforms.

Last month, Seoul raised the limit on foreign share ownership of listed companies to 20 percent from 18 percent. The ceiling is due to rise to 23 percent next year.

But critics have argued the rapid opening of the fledgling financial markets could deal a serious blow to the economy, already suffering from a growing foreign trade deficit and inflationary pressures.

The government projects the nation's current account deficit to rise to about \$20 billion in calendar 1996 from a shortfall of \$8.9 billion in 1995.

Arab Fund Lends Oman \$8.4m

ABU DHABI (AFP) - An Arab fund created five years ago to support flagging internal trade said on Tuesday it had agreed to provide two credits worth \$8.4 million to Oman to finance a local commercial deal.

The Arab Trade Fund Program (ATFP) signed the two agreements with the Omani commercial bank and the Muscat Al-Ahli Bank, which have been appointed as representatives of the Omani government in the fund.

An ATFP statement said the loans would finance 85 percent of

credits extended by the two banks to finance a commercial transaction with Arabs.

ATFP was set up by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) in 1991 with a capital of \$500 million to finance inter-Arab trade, which does not exceed 10 percent of the total trade of the 22-member Arab League.

The AMF, a regional IMF-style institution, contributed half the capital while the rest came from other Arab banks and financial institutions.

China Signs Oil Contracts With U.S. Firms

BEIJING (AFP) - China has signed a joint contract with U.S. oil giants Occidental Petroleum Corp. and Texaco Inc. to explore a 2,340 square kilometer (936 square mile) bloc off its northeast coast, reports said Wednesday.

Under the terms of the contract - signed Tuesday with the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) - the two U.S. firms will shoulder all the exploration costs.

Occidental and Texaco had previously spent one year collecting seismic data from the bloc in the Bohai Bay, where 11 joint oil exploration contracts between Chinese and foreign firms are already in operation.

Plans are underway to sink more than 10 further wildcat wells in the bay next year.

CNOOC has signed 122 oil exploration contracts with foreign firms since 1982.

French Unemployment Haunts EMU Economic Drive

PARIS (Reuters) - French Prime Minister Alain Juppe must be prying winter ends quickly for the economy, with the country facing record unemployment, public disenchantment and renewed labor unrest.

The government is bent on cutting public spending to prepare for European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), but its promise of better growth and more jobs is striking an increasingly hollow chord from politicians to truck drivers.

Suddenly, it seems, a string of events has flung the debate wide open on how France is preparing for an EU single currency.

Unemployment is at a record 12.6 percent, economic growth still "around the corner" and labor conflict back on the boil.

Angry truck drivers have thrown up blockades across the country to pursue better pay and conditions in the worst unrest France has seen since crippling transport strikes last year.

Earlier this month, a leading economic think-tank said in a report commissioned by the senate that unemployment would rise every year between now and 2001 - beyond the EMU start date of January 1999 - despite improving economic growth.

The National Statistics Institute INSEE said hardly a single additional job had been created outside France's public sector in the past year.

Then, former president Valery



Giscard d'Estaing and European Union architect set the ball rolling last week by questioning France's decade-old policy of a strong and stable currency, linked to the German mark.

Prominent anti-Maastricht parliamentarians including Charles Pasqua and Philippe Seguin from Juppe's ruling RPR Party, leapt into the breach to call for a European Union which made jobs an absolute priority.

The heavyweight Gaullists said the government's relentless drive to cut spending to meet Maastricht criteria for joining a single currency was restraining growth, sacrificing jobs and fueling discontent.

Despite the failure of the disputed trade union movement to resuscitate last year's strike upheaval, the truckers dispute has won a 74 percent vote of support from the French public in an opinion poll.

There are signs, albeit muted, that the protest could widen, with French airline pilots due to strike on Wednesday and Thursday and unions at the SNCF state railways calling on staff to support the truckers "in the way they will judge necessary".

Many of the disputes so far appear to lack the common thread that could create a more generalized labor protest movement.

But worries about unemployment and an economic policy which reads "EMU first, jobs later" are gaining momentum at other levels as well.

While Juppe's government is expected to find some respite in third quarter growth figures due out next week, economists say a 2.6 percent drop in consumer spending in October announced on Tuesday augurs badly for the fourth quarter.

German Metalworkers Ready for All-Out Strikes

FRANKFURT (Reuters) - German's largest trade union, IG Metall, warned on Tuesday that all out strikes in the metal and engineering industries were possible following the collapse of efforts to resolve a bitter row on planned cuts in sick pay.

Klaus Zwickel, chairman of the three-million-strong metal and engineering union, said the failure early on Tuesday of crisis talks in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia represented the last chance to solve the dispute "amicably".

IG Metall's regional wage committees now plan to cancel worker wage contracts early next year in a move that would allow them to conduct strikes from around March if no progress looked likely in the regular wage round for 1997.

Referring to the potential for strikes after the four-week notice period required under German law, Zwickel said in a statement: "If no peaceable settlement is reached, we shall indeed do that."

Employers across German industry have been complaining for years that high German wages and other employee costs have undermined their international competitiveness, and ultimately contributed to the country's near four-million jobless total.

The new law cutting sick pay to 80 percent of wages from 100 percent has already triggered nationwide protests by metal and engineering workers and even walk-outs by staff in the usually much more peaceable banking and chemical sectors.

It was introduced by Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government as part of an austerity package aimed at securing Germany's entry into Europe's single currency.

The law is estimated to carry

cost savings of up to 12 billion marks (\$7.85 billion) across the whole of German industry.

IG Metall, in membership terms the largest union in the world, represents workers at key German industrial concerns including Daimler-Benz AG, electronics firm Siemens AG, and car-makers BMW and Volkswagen.

Zwickel accused employers of having wasted their best chance of solving the dispute on sick pay, which firms are still determined to reduce.

But negotiators for the employers' side said that a scheme to which IG Metall had been willing to agree under which sick pay costs would be offset by lower bonuses elsewhere, was simply not workable.

Central African Economies Show Slight Improvement

LIBERVILLE (AFP) - Six central African countries have shown modest economic progress since 1995, their finance ministers said Tuesday as they wrapped up the annual meeting of the bloc's collective central bank.

The ministers noted good growth in real terms and encouraging results from structural adjustment programs in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.

In communiqués issued Tuesday, the ministerial committee of the Bank of Central African States (BEAC) said: "Though the economic recovery was generally hesitant right before the devaluation, the countries of the region have nevertheless in 1995 seen good real-terms growth at 3.1 percent."

"This trend should continue for 1996 with an expected expansion of five percent," while "at the end of the current year average yearly inflation will fall to 5.5 percent against 12 percent in 1995, and the budget deficit in terms of GDP (gross domestic product) to 2.7

percent instead of 4.4 percent previously."

The ministers also praised Congo, Gabon and Chad for their compliance with accords with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), while calling on the other three - Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea - "to make the necessary effort to begin or continue negotiations" with the Bretton Woods institutions.

The BEAC board said the six countries "have begun to show positive repercussions from voluntary efforts under structural adjustment programs put in place with the support of the Bretton Woods institutions."

The board complained however that tight monetary policies in the zone had impeded the flow of cash in the real economy, and urged extenders of credit to help encourage investment.

The finance ministers of the 14-country CFA franc zone decided in the Chadian capital N'Djamena in April to link the CFA franc to the future EU currency, the euro.

Economic Digest

TOKYO - Satellite maker Hughes Electronics Corp. has agreed to buy launch services worth \$1 billion from a Tokyo company that will use Japan's domestically-developed space rocket, the company said Tuesday.

Rocket Systems Corp. will send up ten Hughes satellites between 2000 and 2005, and give the U.S. company options to buy from five to ten more launches after that, said spokesman Satoshi Sato.

He said the launches will be made with the H-IIA, an upgraded version of the H-II, Japan's first commercial space rocket. After a series of failures during its development, the H-II was successfully tested in August 1994, and represents Japan's attempt to enter an already competitive field.

The purchase agreement marks the fourth time in recent years that Hughes has added to the number of competitors in the space rocket business to induce competition and cut per-launch prices.

SINGAPORE - Singapore's telephone company announced Tuesday it will reduce rates for foreign calls by up to 46 percent in January.

That will be the fourth price cut in a year by Singapore Telecom Ltd., which is to lose its monopoly in 2000 as part of a worldwide move to open phone markets to foreign competition.

Singtel's biggest price cut would be for calls to neighboring Malaysia.

Rates for direct-dial calls to Japan - where international calls are also getting cheaper in December - will fall by 21 percent to 1.50 Singapore dollars (\$1.00) per minute, and to the United States by 8 percent to 1.20 Singapore dollars (\$0.85) cents per minute.

SHANGHAI - Atomic Energy Canada Ltd. and China National Nuclear Corp. signed a U.S.\$4 billion contract Tuesday for the construction of two Candu-6 nuclear reactors, the Canada China Business Council said.

The two 700-megawatt reactors will be located about 80 kilometers (50 miles) from Shanghai in Qinsan, eastern Zhejiang Province.

"The reactors will enable China to meet its energy needs and Canada to showcase its high-technology capabilities while creating employment and opportunities at home," said Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

MELBOURNE - Japanese restaurant group Daisho has agreed to buy U.S.\$8.1 million (10 million Australian dollars) worth of Victorian produce each year, Victorian State Premier Jeff Kennett announced on Tuesday.

Kennett is on a nine-day trade mission to South Korea and Japan.

In a statement released here, Kennett said Daisho, which owns 470 restaurants in Japan, has established a company in Victoria to run its Australian operations.

TOKYO - Dai-ichi, a major Japanese supermarket chain, said Tuesday it will start flying in all the beef the store imports from the United States.

Up to now, most of the American beef was shipped by sea, taking as long as two weeks, said a Dai-ichi spokeswoman. By air, that will be shortened to about 11 hours, keeping the meat fresh, she said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Today in History

1940 - Germany annexes French province of Lorraine during World War II.

1950 - United Nations troops retreat in Korea.

1961 - Soviet Union proposes immediate ban on nuclear testing without international controls.

1962 - Britain agrees to provide arms to India to resist Chinese aggression.

1966 - U.N. General Assembly debates question of seating China.

1969 - South Yemen announces extensive nationalization program.

1987 - Troops comb Matabeleland bush in Zimbabwe for rebels who hacked to death 16 missionaries and their children.

1989 - Colombian airplane crashes killing 107 people.

1990 - John Major elected prime minister of Britain.

1991 - Angry mob attacks top Khmer Rouge leader in Phnom Penh, who is evacuated to Bangkok before being lynched.

1992 - Rebels trying to take over Venezuela by bombing the presidential palace and capturing a military airport are put down by loyal troops 12 hours later in a failed coup.



20 Ways to Improve World Health

PART IV

20. Point the finger; name names. It is a shocking scandal that 12.2 million under-5s die every year from causes which could be prevented for, literally, a few pence per child.

They die not because of the unfathomable workings of "the system", but because of conscious decisions by individuals - by governments which subsidize arms

sales instead of eliminating cretinism worldwide with a technology that has been known for 75 years for a price that is paltry; by parents who discriminate against their

daughters; by doctors who refuse to encourage the use of cheap oral rehydration salts for diarrhea because there is little profit in it for them; by companies knowingly

promoting medicines dangerous for children; by politicians who deliberately allocate scarce resources to urban hospitals for rea-

sons of prestige and profit, knowing full well that the money would be better spent on primary health care.

(Courtesy of Kuwait Times)

Shoes Must Provide Adequate Protection

BY DR. ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: It is just the start of the season, and my young, athletic son is already plagued by a football injury. It seemed like a simple sprain, and we were not concerned until a consultation with a specialist labeled this as a "turf toe" and sent my boy back to the bench.

Why would a simple sprain require this penalty, when all he lives for is the football season and his participation on his college team? Please write us something that can get him back on the field

where he belongs.

ANSWER: It isn't a penalty, but a legitimate call. You obviously don't understand the implications of "turf toe," or you would be praising your physician instead of feeling that he is taking your son out of action without just reason.

Turf toe is an injury of hyperextension of the toe, meaning it has been pulled back beyond the normal limits of the joint. It is not a simple sprain, but an injury that can damage the ligaments and

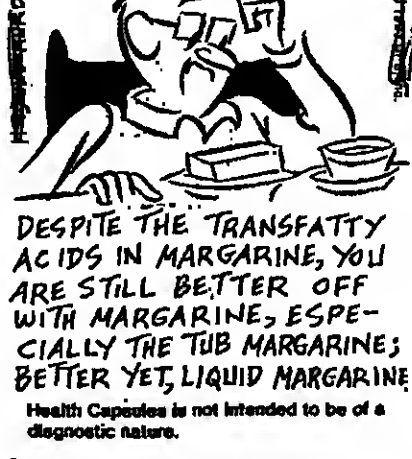
capsule (fibrous tissue that surrounds joints). When not treated properly, permanent stiffness and early arthritis can result.

When artificial turf first became popular, athletes changed their shoes for highly flexible models, which afforded more traction but did not provide sufficient support for the joints in the toes. We now know that shoes must provide adequate protection if this injury is to be avoided. Have your son stick with your doctor's advice on this call.

HEALTH CAPSULES®

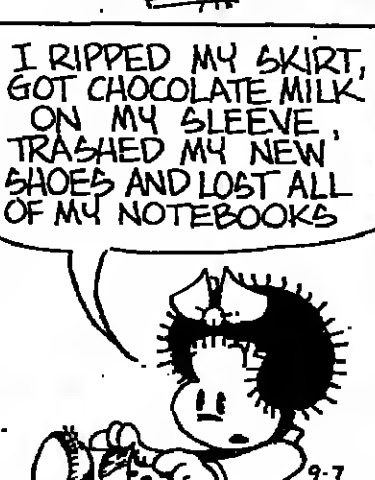
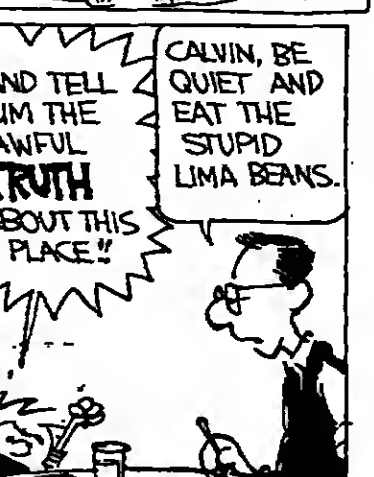
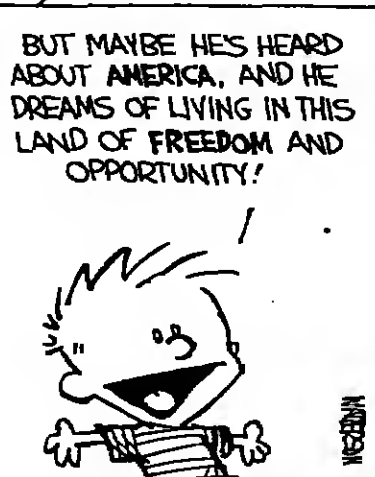
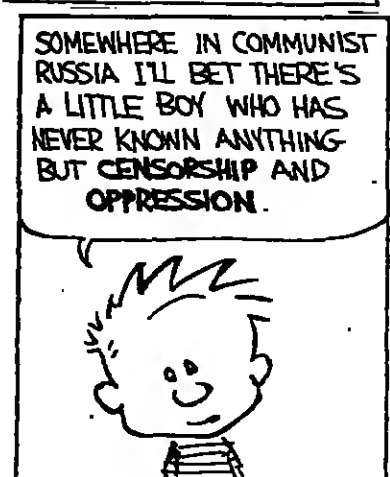
by Michael A. Pett, M.D.

DOES IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE WHETHER YOU EAT BUTTER OR MARGARINE?



DENNIS MENACE

by Hank Ketcham



CORNUCOPIA

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginton

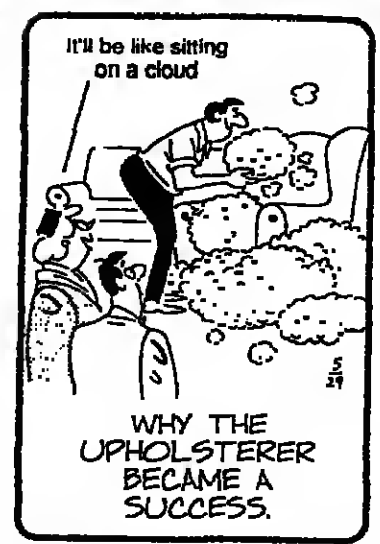
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WULFA

NOFET

TESACK

WHENEP



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: HIS

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: KNACK PRINT GOATEE DIVIDE
Answer: What the park turned into during lunch time - A GARDEN OF EATIN'

NARCISSUS POETICUS L. SUBSP. RADIIFLORUS Burb.

Family: Amaryllidaceae
Modern Greek Names: Zampaki, Narkissos



Perennial plants with egg-shaped bulbs are included to this genus. Leaves strap-shaped arise straight from the base in two rows. Flowers sweet-scented with long tube and corona. Ovary inferior. A spathe encircles the buds borne at the end of a stem. Flowering stem is hollow, leafless, slightly wide. *Narkissus poeticus* is a widely distributed species of the mountain and alpine zone. It displays numerous sub-species two of which are found growing in Greece. The species illustrated, in contrast to the local one, makes smaller flowers with perianth segments narrower. Leaves smaller and narrower as well. The sub-species *radiiflorus* frequents drier and stony localities. Flowers April-May.

HEATHCLIFF



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IRAN NEWS

Kids Afflicted with Rare Giant Moles Face Life of Stares and Questions

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA (AP)—First came shock, then worry, then confusion as Jint and Lynne Eppes went from doctor to doctor with their newborn baby who had a giant mole stretching from her chin to her bellybutton.

While doctors offered conflicting advice, the family envisioned a lifetime of name-calling and low self-esteem for their daughter.

Lynne Eppes cried for two weeks after she left the hospital. "I still get looks," says her daughter, Marie, now 16. "I still get questions. If I go for a week without somebody saying something to me, it wonder what's wrong."

The family learned early on that Marie's mole - a giant congenital nevus, as the rare birth defect is medically termed - had the potential to turn cancerous.

Long thought to have mostly cosmetic implications, the con-

genital nevus has received greater attention in recent years because of its potential to develop into melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer.

One out of 100 babies are born with a mole, but only 1 in 500,000 have moles that are 8 inches (20 centimeters) or more at birth. People born with the giant birthmarks have a 6 percent to 10 percent chance of developing melanoma, with about half the cases occurring by age 5.

The defect is not inherited. It results from an abnormal distribution of pigmented cells during pregnancy.

Often the mole is partly covered with hair that is darker and coarser than normal. The mole, or parts of it, can sometimes be removed surgically, depending on its size and location.

Unlike more common birth defects such as down syndrome, lit-

tle is known about the giant congenital nevus.

Growing up in a suburban neighborhood of single-family homes, Marie Eppes drew stares when her parents took her out shopping or swimming. They patiently explained her condition to inquisitive neighbors, friends and passersby - once even fending off suggestions of child abuse.

Miss Eppes recalls reciting as a little girl: "I was born with a skin condition, and I have doctors who take good care of me, and it's not catching."

The brownish, hairy mole at the time covered a third of her body, extending along the left arm to the elbow and wrapping around her torso. The rest of her body was covered with hundreds of smaller moles of various shapes, size and color.

She underwent two or three surgeries a year to remove the

mole bit by bit, and has a few more years of operations remaining. Part of her back still is covered with the mole and the rest of her body with scars.

Marie Eppes is not alone. Chris Billotte has had his share of taunts.

"I'm pretty much a normal kid, but sometimes I get made fun of," says Chris, 11, who is enrolled in a gifted-student program, plays soccer and wants to be a NASA technician. "Some kids at school have a real attitude problem."

Chris had eight operations by the time he turned 4 to remove some of the worst spots. Still, the dark brown mole stretches from the middle of his back to his knees, requiring him to wear a T-shirt and cutoffs while swimming to prevent sun damage.

A support group has been formed for the few hundred people in the United States believed to

have giant moles. The nevus network dispenses information and puts the afflicted in touch with one another.

Miss Eppes celebrated her first birthday in an operating room. To reduce the risk of cancer, her doctor wanted to remove the mole as early as possible - but not before she turned 1.

Doctors have several ways of removing the birthmark. The mole can be removed directly, with the wound edges sewn together. Or a doctor can graft skin from another part of the body.

More recently, surgeons have developed a "tissue expansion" technique in which inflatable sacks are placed under the skin and gradually pumped full of saline solution in order to force the skin tissue to expand. Weeks later, a piece of the mole is cut off and the skin stretched to cover it.

Miss Eppes had to miss school

for weeks at a time while she underwent surgery at a hospital and recovery at home. The county school district sent a teacher to her home for a few hours each day so she could keep up academically.

The condition took its toll. Her father, a computer analyst, hung onto his job to keep his medical insurance. Her parents avoided moving so that she would not have to make new friends. And the family had to forgo summer beach outings.

When Miss Eppes was 8, she developed melanoma in the neck area. Although the cancer was detected early enough to be removed, the threat of complications remains real for her and her parents.

In addition to developing skin cancer, people with a giant nevus can develop complications if nevus cells are present near the brain and spinal cord at birth.

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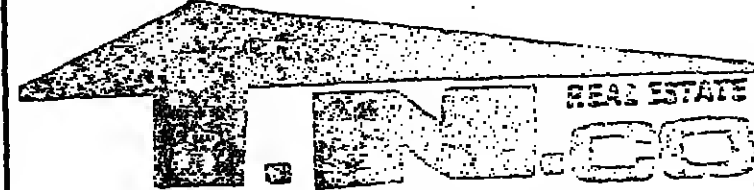
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"International Tender Notice No. 96-11"

Iran Dairy Industries Co. intends to purchase
through an open international tender two thermo-
forming machines for manufacturing cup and lid
and one printing machine with capacity of manu-
facturing 15.000 cups per hour according to the
specifications of the tenders' conditions sheets.

Interested parties who want to participate in the
tender should carry 100,000 rials to the account
No. 29760 of Bank Mellat Iran, central branch in
favor of Iran Dairy Industries Co. and can get de-
tailed information from the secretariat of this
company located at No. 9, East Roudsar St.,
Northern Hafez Ave., Tehran-Iran. Then they
should dispatch their offer to above mentioned
secretariat on or before December 24, 1996 and
take a receipt. Obviously the received proposals
will be opened on December 25, 1996.

Jan Hendrix Exhibition at Niavaran Gallery

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

The Mexican Embassy in Tehran is hosting a special exhibition of works by internationally acclaimed Mexican-Dutch artist Jan Hendrix.

The exhibition of Jan Hendrix's silk-screen prints will officially be inaugurated by the Mexican Ambassador Mr. Fernando Escamilla and will be on display at Niavaran Farhangsara Gallery until Saturday, December 14, 1996.

Jan Hendrix creates his images through collage, lithography, polaroid photography and silkscreen printing. His work is inspired by nature and his images often seek to convey nature's changing states, particularly in terms of light, atmosphere and time.

This special international touring exhibition has already been presented in China, Indonesia, Australia and has been sponsored by the Mexican Embassy in Tehran, Iran.

Niavaran Farhangsara Gallery, Pasdaran Ave., opposite Niavaran Park, West Side.

Visiting Hours: Saturday to Friday: 9 to 12 a.m. and 2 to 5 p.m.

For further details contact Ira Navabi, Mexican Embassy in Tehran Telephone 205 5374 and 205-5376.

United Nations
Names World
TV Day

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

Welcoming the commitment of the United Nations to enhance its links with the media, broadcasters agreed to support the proclamation of World Television Day, to be observed on Nov. 21, a statement from the United Nations Information Service in Tehran said.

According to the draft, introduced at the conclusion of the first United Nations World Television Forum in New York, the proposed World Television Day would be marked by global exchange of television programs focusing on such issues as peace and security, economic and social development, and the enhancement of cultural exchange.

The declaration would call for the U.N. World Television Forum to become an annual event.

The draft calls on the U.N. through its Department of Public Information (DPI), to act as catalyst among communicators, strengthening its partnerships with key media groups, to ensure an outreach by the U.N., family and reinforcing its links to civil society.

In closing remarks, the assistant secretary-general for public information and chairman of the forum, Samir Sanbar, stressed the importance of the Forum as the world entered the twenty-first century.

He expressed the hope that regular meetings of television broadcasters would be held and that future forums would include the participation of broadcasting unions.

Two Small Movies, and a 'Patient' Leap Forward A Palywright-Filmmaker's Search for a Liquid Storytelling Style



Ralph Fiennes in 'Strange Days'

LONDON (AP) - Anthony Minghella started small with the acclaimed "Truly, Madly, Deeply" and went smaller - in terms of finding a public, at least - with the little-seen "Mr. Wonderful."

"The English Patient," the London-based writer-director's new film, marks his costliest movie to date, and easily his most ambitious.

If the earlier works showed a former playwright's skill for finely honed character studies, the new one proves Minghella has the makings of an epic craftsman: It's his first film in which the style is equal to the substance.

Does "The English Patient"

"We've come to trust in a cinema that says, 'Sit back, be a passive audience. We're going to rock you. The English Patient goes absolutely against that grain. It says, 'I'm sorry, but you're going to have to make some connections. There are some puzzles here.'"

feel like the culmination of his career? Minghella nods, spooning cornflakes during a breakfast interview in his north London home in his last hour before leaving for an American publicity tour.

"I feel more naked and more exposed by this piece of work than anything I've ever been involved with," said Minghella, a thoughtful conversationalist who doesn't speak in jazzy sound bites. Instead, the 42-year-old director - twice married and with a child from each marriage - talks in full, rounded sentences true to his background as a drama lecturer at the University of Hull. The man, like his movies, couldn't be less glib.

"It's so unlikely," Minghella said of the \$30 million film, on which he has been working for last 3 1/2 years. (His previous two films together cost barely more than \$10 million.)

"As a project to be made at the

end of the 20th century, it's so full of no-nos, of do no's, given that we've come to trust in a cinema that says, 'Sit back, be a passive audience. We're going to rock you and thrill you. We'll do everything for you.'"

"That has become the overwhelming phenomenon of filmmaking," he said, "and this film goes absolutely against that grain. It says, 'I'm sorry, but you're going to have to make some connections. There are some puzzles here. The story will constantly rethread itself and it will be elliptical, but there are enormous rewards in that.'"

Indeed there are, particularly when the terrain encompasses Cairo, the vast reaches of the Sahara and the Tuscany region of Italy during and after World War II.

Adapted from Michael Ondaatje's Booker Prize-winning novel, the film stars Ralph Fiennes ("Schindler's List") as Almsy, the English patient of the title. A pioneering geographer who was in fact raised in Budapest, Almsy is a desert bound seduced into a wartime romance with an aristocratic woman, Katherine (Kristen Scott Thomas).

Shot down over the Sahara, he is later cared for by Hana (Juliette Binoche), a French-Canadian nurse who is in turn drawn to the Sikh homh disposal expert (Naveen Andrews) recently arrived at the monastery that is her base.

Willem Dafoe ("Platoon") completes the principals as Caravaggio, a Canadian secret agent with his own agenda for

turning up by the dying Almsy's bedside.

Ondaatje's evanescent novel might seem to defy adaptation. His fabric, said Minghella, "is like gauze and as you approach it, it recedes."

But working from his own screenplay, Minghella was determined to anchor the source material while honoring a story that he called both "ravishing and intoxicating."

"The thing that is so mesmerizing about the novel," he said, "is that there is no narrative, no real interest in psychology. All there is this collection of images."

The result, Minghella added, "left me with an enormous space in which to do my own work. Michael gave me every encouragement to invent, to reject, in some ways to annihilate the book. The only way to do any work at all was to leave the book alone."

And though the film occupies exotic locales of the sort that would have delighted the late David Lean, Minghella was wary of filming an elegant travelogue.

With his technicians, he made a pact "that we would never invest in the landscape. There is no shot in the film which begins on some gorgeous piece of scenery or architecture. There is only ever activity generated by character or a piece of narrative which requires us to look beyond an elbow or a neck."

At its core, Minghella went on, is an examination of "potential forms of love, some scrutiny of what love could be."

"I love the fact that Almsy's character is some kind of crista-

cean. It's so hard for him to feel." But by film's end, this cryptic, emotionally disengaged man has become, said Minghella, "a sort of lava in the middle of the film - someone literally burnt by love, damaged by love."

Born the second of five children to southern Italian emigrants, Minghella came to moviemaking from a flourishing playwrighting career on the London "fringe" and, in 1986, on the West End with the play, "Made in Bangkok."

And though "The English Patient" would never work on stage, the film shares the same interest as the plays Minghella once wrote.

"I think in every sense this is an elaboration rather than any form of departure," he said. "I was never happy writing plays just set in rooms. I wanted the plays to move and for time to shift - a more liquid way of storytelling."

Next up is an adaptation of a Patricia Highsmith novel, "The Talented Mr. Ripley," also set in Italy, and a continued determination to work "on my terms with the people I want to work with in the way I want to work."

That is why - whatever the fate of "The English Patient" - it remains the film Minghella wanted to make.

"It makes me feel skinnier and absolutely exposed and terrified," he said, as he awaits critical reckoning on one of the year's hottest Academy Award prospects. "This is the absolute expression of how I want to work as a filmmaker."

Famous Son, Architect Horta Belgium's Least Known

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Ask almost anyone to name 10 famous Belgians and one name that will almost certainly not come up is that of architect Victor Horta.

Yet Horta, who died in 1947 at the age of 86, was a founding force in the Art Nouveau movement at the turn of the century which revolutionized architecture and set the scene for much of modern building design.

His flamboyant buildings were among the first to make full use of iron and glass as a visible structural medium combining strength, light and art.

His distinctive houses still dot Brussels, although the expense of building them and filling them with ornaments and furniture of Horta's own choosing and often design, made them for the most part the preserve of the rich.

Many, including what was arguably his best work, the Maison Du Peuple headquarters of the socialist party completed in 1899, have failed to survive into the present day - torn down because of a mixture of greed, envy, politics and the unmistakable decades of decadence they epitomized.

But some still survive, due largely to the work of his disciple Jean Delhayc and the popular rediscovery in the 1950s and 1960s of a style that, although short-lived, giving way gradually after World War One to the more refined art deco, caught the nature of a lost generation.

An exhibition of his work has opened in the Belgian capital and will run until January.

Grouping some 200 photographs as well as drawings, scale models, furniture and narrated films, the Europaia Exhibition is a belated memorial to a man who is Belgium's least known famous son.

In the 30 short years of its reign, Art Nouveau (new art) architecture spread across the Western world, firing the imagination of the newly rich, Romantic artists

and the young.

Flouting convention with its sensuous curves and swirls, it also outraged many in the establishment.

Examples of the style can still be found as far afield as France - where Horta studied - Italy, Spain, Germany, the United States, Norway, Russia, and South and North America.

Horta, born in 1861 in the Bel-

gian city of Ghent to an Italian shoemaker father, studied at home, in Paris and Brussels before being taken under the wing of royal architect Alphonse Balat.

He married at the age of 20 and won his first major commission 12 years later, building what was in effect the world's first Art Nouveau house for a rich bachelor who lived in Brussels' Rue Janson.

Although he outraged many he won a growing number of supporters, particularly among the Freemasonry - a society he later joined - and more commissions followed.

The wealthy industrialist Solvay family commissioned a major town house, as did the Van Eetvelde family whose money came from business in the Belgian Congo and whose house is lined with rare African woods whose swells enhance the lines of the building.

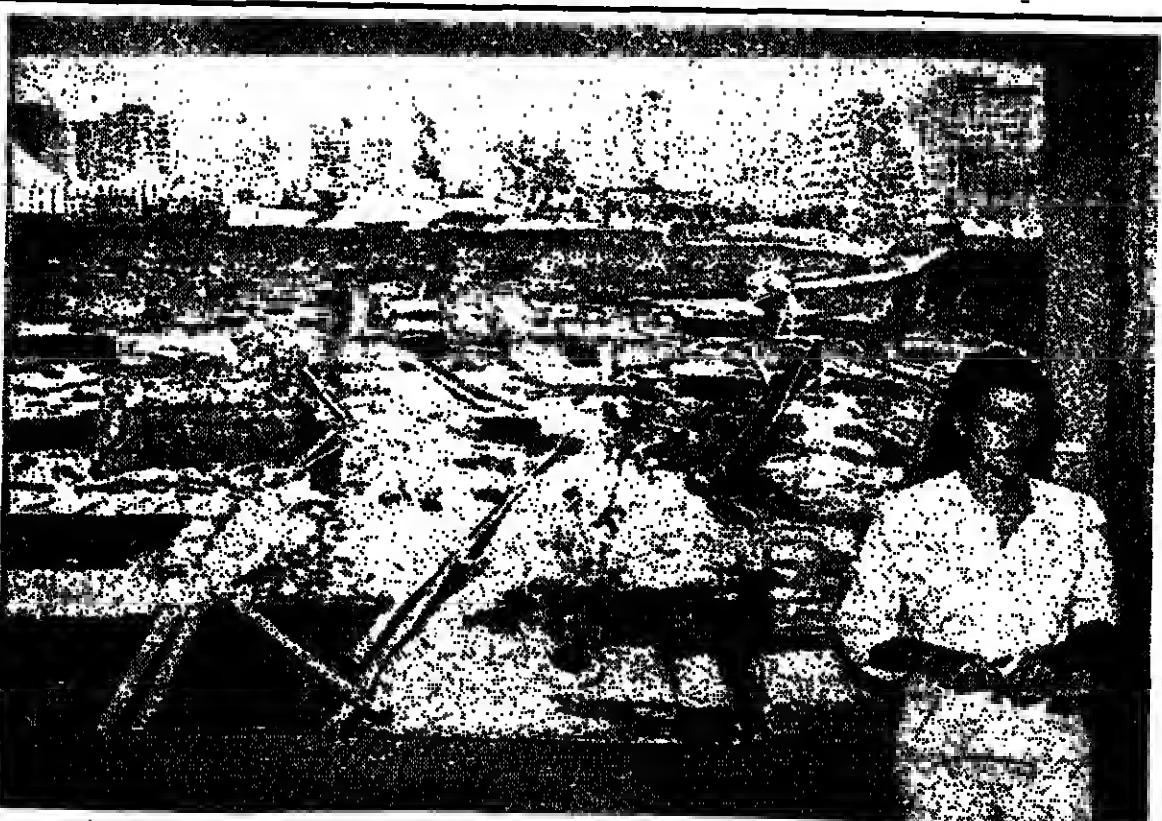
Horta was not always an easy person to employ, demanding complete artistic authority over his projects from the house itself down to the design of the door-knobs.

But he also practiced his art on himself, building his own house in Brussels.

When World War One broke out he was on a visit to Britain and could not get back to Belgium, so he traveled instead in the opposite direction to the United States where he passed his time lecturing and revelling in the new building materials being produced the other side of the Atlantic.

When he returned to Belgium after the war, Art Nouveau was waning and Horta's own style had become more austere.

Fittingly the exhibition is housed in his last great project, Brussels' Palais Des Beaux Arts - completed in 1928 when Horta was 67 - the first building of its type in combining shops, exhibition space, concert halls and theaters under one roof.



BEIRUT, LEBANON: German artist Stefanie Buerkle poses in Beirut Nov. 26 before her painting which depicts war-damaged downtown Beirut under reconstruction. Buerkle is exhibiting paintings and photographs that compare the similarities between Beirut and Berlin, both of which are trying to complete their unification after years of division.

(AFP Photo)

مكتبة الأمل

IRAN

POLITICAL NEWS

Iraqi Oil Exports Would Cap Good Year for Saddam

AMMAN (Reuters) - Iraqi hopes of exporting oil to world markets next month for the first time since 1990 would cap a year in which President Saddam Hussein regained a foothold in the Kurdish North and struck back at foreign and domestic foes.

Final agreement on the deal would clear the way for Iraq to export oil to fund urgently needed food and medicine, and help fulfill Saddam's promises to Iraqis that some of the toughest trade sanctions in U.N. history will soon be eased.

But after months of wrangling over the accord, which allows Iraq to sell \$2 billion of oil over six months, diplomats say questions remain about Saddam's enthusiasm for the deal.

Despite warnings from humanitarian workers of impending food crisis, Iraq has hauled over terms in the agreement which call for tight U.N. monitoring of food distribution.

It is also unhappy that 30 percent of its oil revenues will be allocated to a Persian Gulf War reparations fund and another 10 percent will go toward funding Baghdad's greatest irritant, the U.N. Commission in Charge of Iraqi Disarmament.

The commission is so strapped for cash it has had to plead for money from Persian Gulf Arab states to keep it solvent into 1997.

"Money is going to go into U.N. coffers," said one diplomat. "That's going to please the United Nations and the West, but it's not likely to please Saddam."

A deal to implement the accord was agreed in May and has already been delayed by six months.

U.N. officials have warned that even if oil starts flowing next month, hundreds of thousands of Iraq's most vulnerable civilian population will still be at risk.

"The U.N. resolution will cover ration supplements," World Food Program director in Iraq, Holdbrook Arthur said last month. "But it does not cover the malnourished children, the pregnant and nursing mothers."

But the Iraqi leader has built up expectations among Iraq's long-suffering citizens that relief is in sight.

His intervention in August in Northern Iraq, which gave him a foothold back in a region used as a base for opponents fleeing his rule, was portrayed in Baghdad as restoring national security to speed up implementation of the oil-for-food deal.

Saddam later told Iraq the six-year sanctions were "marching to their end". Senior officials like Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz have said the oil-for-food deal would speed up the complete lifting of sanctions.

Even if Iraq and the U.N. run into further obstacles when they try to carry out the accord, diplomats say Saddam's authority is unlikely to be affected, his grip on power if anything strengthened by events this year.

Two of his son-in-laws whose 1995 defections sent shockwaves through Baghdad were lured back home. They were killed in a gun-battle shortly after their return.

A wave of arrests in Baghdad over the summer led to reports of a coup attempt, but diplomats in the Iraqi capital said later that Saddam appeared to be in total control.

Even the fragile Iraqi dinar, crippled by continued economic isolation, has gained a semblance of stability, partly on expectations that the oil-for-food deal would be carried out.

Saddam's September foray into the Kurdish north, effectively an autonomous district since the



Iraqi woman sells everything to make money in Baghdad. The local currency continues to decline due to the U.N. embargo. (AFP Photo)

1991 Persian Gulf War, destroyed a refuge for his opponents, some of whom were U.S.-backed.

It also exposed glaring splits in Western ranks when United States missile strikes against Baghdad were met with widespread dismay and criticism.

Iraq has made much of the growing international concern

over the continuation of the six-year sanctions.

Some Persian Gulf Arab states are worried Iraq's weakness has encouraged Iran to flex its military muscles, while French President Jacques Chirac said Iraq faced a humanitarian crisis "unworthy of the modern age" because of the sanctions.

Human Rights Group, U.S. Doing Little to Stop Abuses in Colombia

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA (AP) - The U.S. government is ignoring human rights abuses by Colombia's military and by paramilitary death squads that have killed many hundreds of people, a human rights group said Monday.

Human Rights Watch-Americas said Colombia's military leaders have used private militias to gather intelligence, assassinate political and union leaders and massacre suspected leftist guerrilla sympathizers since 1991.

Nevertheless, the United States continues to provide tens of millions of dollars a year to the Colombian military, said Jose Miguel Vivanco, the Washington-based group's executive director.

The group recommended that the United States suspend all training, military aid, and arms sales to Colombia, in particular the pending delivery of seven black-hawk helicopters that U.S. officials say were sold to the Colombian military without restrictions because of its anti-drug efforts.

"We don't have any evidence that the intention of the United States was to aid human rights violations, but that has been the effect," said Jamie Fellner, a human rights watch researcher.

The U.S. Embassy in Bogota had no comment.

Vivanco said the U.S. Defense Department and Central Intelligence Agency advised the Colom-

bian military on how to reorganize their intelligence gathering in 1991.

He said the rights group doesn't know what role U.S. advisors played in setting up the intelligence system or if they were aware it would lead to human rights violations.

Paramilitaries often attack suspected rebel sympathizers and have been more effective than the army in combating the guerrillas, who have been fighting the government for over 30 years.

Last weekend, at least 20 people were killed by suspected paramilitaries in several attacks.

Fellner said that in some cases both the military and powerful Colombian drug traffickers have provided arms and information to the clandestine militias.

Interior Minister Horacio Serpa said Colombia opposes paramilitary groups, but acknowledged that some armed forces members might be involved with the illegal militias.

"There cannot be impunity, or solidarity with those who violate the law," he said.

Human Rights Watch called on the U.S. government to conduct an investigation into CIA and Defense Department activity in Colombia.

It also asked Colombia to investigate and prosecute military leaders responsible for human rights abuses.

Kashmir Panel Named to Ease Restoration of Autonomy

JAMMU, INDIA (Reuters) - The newly elected leader of India's Jammu and Kashmir state on Tuesday announced the formation of a committee to recommend

ways to restore autonomy to the troubled region.

Farooq Abdullah, named chief minister after his National Conference Party swept state assembly elections in September, had campaigned on a platform of regaining the autonomous status which he claims the state has lost over the past four decades.

India's constitution grants the Himalayan region control over all affairs except defense, foreign affairs and communications.

The erosion in the state's autonomy has stirred resentment among many Kashmiris and fueled a separatist movement. More than 20,000 people have been killed in the violent insurgency that erupted in 1990.

India accuses Pakistan, which rules over one third of Kashmir, of arming and training separatist guerrillas. Islamabad says it offers only moral and diplomatic support.

Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's center-left coalition announced shortly after he took office in June that it would push for the "maximum" degree of autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir as part of a strategy to quell the rebellion.

Abdullah told a news conference in the state's winter capital Jammu that the eight-member panel, headed by a former leader of the state, Karan Singh, would examine and recommend measures for restoring autonomy to the state.

It would also recommend safeguards to ensure the autonomy would not be whittled away, as well as ways to ensure a harmonious relationship with the federal government.

Abdullah said the panel would submit its report within a year.

Bhopal's Gas Victims Protest Court Order

NEW DELHI, INDIA (AP) - Victims of the world's worst industrial accident squatted outside Parliament Tuesday to protest a Supreme Court decision to drop manslaughter charges in the 1984 Bhopal gas leak.

In 13 years, more than 15,000 people have been determined to have died from the leakage of toxic gas from a fertilizer plant owned by a subsidiary of the Union Carbide Corp., of Danbury, Conn. The original death toll was put at 4,000, but many more victims died from long-term effects, a claims court in Bhopal has ruled.

Last month, the Supreme Court set aside a lower court's ruling charging eight company executives with manslaughter and reducing the charges to criminal negligence, which is punishable by less than 10 years in jail.

"File an appeal immediately," demonstrators shouted outside Parliament.

The Supreme Court ruled that the executives did not know that the methylisocyanate gas produced in the factory could kill humans, according to Abdul Jabbar Khan, convenor of the Bhopal gas victims association.

"How is it possible for them

not to know that the gas is lethal to humans when they actually are manufacturing it?" Khan said in an interview.

The protesters renewed demands for the extradition of Warren Anderson, who was chief executive of the multinational in 1984, and who has been charged with manslaughter. Two years ago, a judge ordered Anderson's extradition from the United States, but the Indian government has not acted on the court order. The two countries do not have an extradition treaty.

The Bhopal claims court has so far processed 400,000 of the 600,000 claims for compensation for injuries from the leak.

All but 410 of the 15,310 claims have been settled with the families of those who died from the gas, Khan said.

Most fatalities were compensated with 100,000 (about \$33,000), Khan said. The total amount paid so far was not available.

"How many more years?" asked Kamarunissa Rashid Khan, 60, whose husband and mother died and who herself suffered eye injuries. She said she had not been paid anything so far.

Lukashenko's Power Grab Sets Off Alarm Bells Abroad

MINSK, BELARUS (AFP) - Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko's power grab has outmaneuvered the opposition and raised concern about how he plans to use his virtually unassailable authority in the ex-Soviet republic.

Some Western diplomats are now asking how much further Lukashenko will go, after he bypassed opposition from Parliament, the Constitutional Court and the central electoral commission to boost his already considerable powers.

"Just three months ago I did not believe he was dangerous, but now I've changed my mind," one diplomat admitted, asking not to be named.

Political opponents and human rights activists have accused the 42-year-old president of creating a dictatorship on the back of a landslide victory in a controversial referendum Sunday which boosted his powers.

About 100 pro-Lukashenko deputies broke away from the Belarus Parliament, still called the supreme Soviet, and set up a new assembly Tuesday, declaring the old Parliament defunct.

Lukashenko's strong-arm tactics have raised fears in Europe that a new dictatorship may have emerged in this republic of 10 million inhabitants, sandwiched between Russia and Poland.

"A black mountain has risen up

in the center of Europe," said Deputy Viktor Gonchar, a former ally of Lukashenko, but now one of his most outspoken opponents.

The United States "is not going to be able to have a normal, positive relationship with a government that is fundamentally anti-democratic," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said, commenting on Lukashenko's power grab.

The new constitution, endorsed by a landslide majority in Lukashenko's referendum, does not provide any real counterweight to the Belarus president, a former Communist apparatchik collective farm boss who came to power in July 1994.

Lukashenko can now have the final say in the composition of a new two-chamber Parliament, the constitutional court and electoral commission.

"He is on the verge of gaining what he wanted, total power," said one diplomat.

Lukashenko has repeatedly insisted that there are no grounds to talk of a dictatorship in Belarus. But he said his referendum, denounced as illegal by the opposition, was aimed at ensuring "order and discipline."

Belarus does not have prisoners of conscience, and trade unions, political parties and demonstrations are tolerated.

However, the authorities have

intimidated the opposition, muzzling the press, and some newspapers have appeared with blank spaces where the censors have excised politically incorrect opinions.

Several Belarusian newspapers are now printed in neighboring Lithuania.

According to Sergei Kolyakin, leader of the communist parliamentary group, Lukashenko's "main enemy is the economy," and he predicts that a return to a command economy will bring ruin and chaos.

Lukashenko's Soviet-style interference in market processes has already led to food stocks running lower and lower in Belarusian shops and a much slower pace of reform than in neighboring Poland or Russia.

The risk is that Lukashenko, a populist who uses stridently pro-Moscow and anti-NATO rhetoric, will use the West as a scapegoat for the country's economic ills, one diplomat said.

The European Union has adopted a softer public stance toward Lukashenko than that of the United States, perhaps aware that nothing would be gained by isolating Belarus.

Another question mark hangs over Lukashenko's project to reintegrate his country with Russia, the Slav big brother which dominated

See Page 13

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Kids' World

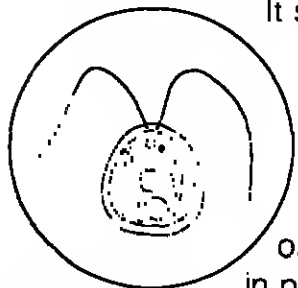


Plants around us

There are over 375,000 different types of plants in the world. They range in size from the tallest trees to the smallest **algae**, which can only be seen with a microscope.

The largest living plant is a giant sequoia tree.

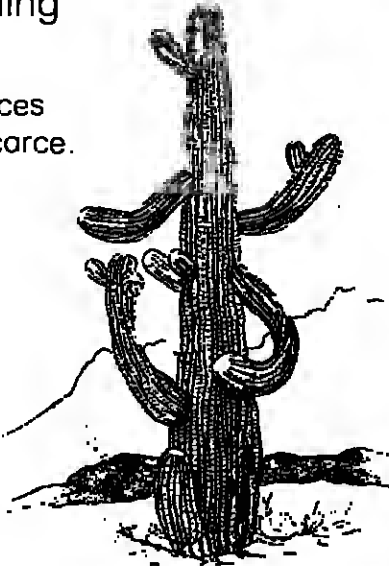
It stands 83.8 m tall.



Many algae live in ponds or ditches. Chlamydomonas is less than one-twentieth of a millimetre long.

Plants can grow on land and in the water, in the freezing cold and in scorching heat.

Cacti grow in places where water is scarce. The largest cacti are the saguaros. Their thick stems and branches store water.



The Alpine poppy grows close to the ground, where it is protected from the bitter wind and cold.

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Hey Kids! Let's Learn Some New Words

definite	The date of the party is definite. The date of the party has been set and will not be changed.
delight	I will delight sister with this gift. She will be happy and it will give her great joy.
delivers	The milkman delivers milk to our house. The milkman brings milk to our house.
demand	I demand that you return my pencil. I ask you to return my pencil.
den	The rabbit went to his den.
diamond	Mother has a diamond ring. The diamond is a beautiful stone. It is clear as glass and it sparkles.
dictionary	A dictionary is a book that tells us the meaning of words.



Erfan Ramin
11 Years Old
From Tehran



Maryam Masood Agahi
6 Years Old
From Tehran



What's this desert tortoise doing on a game page? Its shell is really a maze. Now you can a-maze yourself by following the twisty trail from its tail all the way to its head.

Answer is on page 4.

Twisty Tortoise Trail

کتابخانه کودکان